

BUDGET DEBATE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1)

"Unfortunately the high rate of Government expenditure is not a phenomenon peculiar to Hong Kong, but here it is largely due to the unsatisfactory political situation in South East Asia. Threats to law and order are increasing. We must at all costs meet these threats."

Education, health

"Nevertheless, in spite of this, we are persevering in a modest way in the expansion of our social services such as education and health. This too cannot be accomplished without additional expenditure. It must be accepted, therefore, that so long as we pursue this policy there is no possibility whatever of reducing our administration costs."

"We could, of course, say to ourselves that much heavier expenditure on security measures being unavoidable, we must offset this by arresting all expansion of our social services and closing down completely some departments which, although perhaps not of prime importance, do certainly perform some useful function, for otherwise they would not have been created."

"That would be all very well. If the wave of unrest which is now passing over the world were a merely temporary phenomenon, but experience since the close of active hostilities in 1945 does not suggest that this is the case."

"Therefore, to adopt the policy which I have just outlined would mean complete stagnation. That I am sure is not what the community really wants, but nevertheless I do fully agree that we should cut down expenditure wherever we possibly can."

"It is also clear that we cannot allow our expenditure to mount indefinitely, and there may come a time when some quite drastic cuts will be necessary."

"On the subject of possible immediate cuts, I was glad to see that Mr. T. N. Chau raised the question of the cost of uniforms. In the last couple of years the issue of uniforms has been cut down in various directions. Patterns of uniforms for the lower grades have been standardised and the majority are now made in the Prison."

"Some of the more elaborate types of uniform have been discontinued. The cost of uniforms exclusive of the Police Force and Defence Force included in the present estimates amounts to \$114,750 as compared with \$95,445 in 1949-50 and \$94,970 in 1948-49."

"Thus our efforts so far have resulted in a steady drop in the cost of uniforms amounting to \$70,220 over the last two years, in spite of the fact that costs have been steadily rising."

"The question of the cost of Government transport was also raised. This is high, amounting to \$2,257,995 as compared with \$2,363,350 for the year just closing. This again we have managed to effect a saving, this time of \$103,355, in spite of the fact that new departments such as the Essential Services Corps and Registration Scheme have come into being and that there has been a greater demand for transport in certain other directions."

"A committee was appointed last year to consider the whole question of Government transport and they have recommended an establishment which they consider is the minimum necessary to meet our requirements, and which represents a reduction of 42 vehicles."

No reduction

"I do not think that we can contemplate any reduction beyond the figure which the committee have recommended, though some further reduction in pool vehicles may be a possibility in another six months or so."

"Several speakers have enquired about the results achieved by the visit of Mr. S. S. Ross, the Adviser on Office Organisation and Methods. Mr. Ross spent six months in the Colony which unfortunately only sufficed to enable him to carry out a thorough investigation of two departments, the Colonial Secretariat and the Public Works Department."

"The staff reductions in the Secretariat, which Mr. Ross proposed, have been rather used by the expansion of the Defence branch and the need for supplying trained staff for new organisations connected with security, such as the Essential Services Corps and the Registration Scheme."

"For this reason, it has not yet proved possible to carry out fully the reductions recommended, but the Secretariat staff has so far actually been reduced by three executive officers, seven clerks, five messengers and one driver. The cost of these, two executive officers and two clerks are still held against the Secretariat establishment, as they are seconded for employment in some of the new security organisations or are on leave."

"In the Public Works Department, the implementation of Mr. Ross' recommendations for reductions in staff is only in its early stages, but since September the services of 125 employees have been dispensed with. A further reduction of 208 employees is contemplated. Mr. Ross recommended more sweeping reductions than these, but no Exchange Control difficulties in respect of the issue of bearer bonds could not be resolved at the time."

Water supply

"Sir Man-kam Lo asked for a statement as to the steps Government had taken or were contemplating in regard to the improvement of the water supply. He made particular reference to the Tai Lam Chung scheme. This has been under discussion with the Secretary of State for some considerable time, and unfortunately detailed examination has revealed a number of rather serious objections, of which I will only mention two today."

"In the first place the scheme is of course expensive, the minimum expenditure being estimated at \$4,000,000 while if the whole scheme is carried out the expenditure would rise to the region of \$100,000,000. However, the more formidable objection is the fact that the scheme would probably produce no appreciable quantity of water for seven years after full scale work had commenced."

"In these circumstances, a number of smaller, alternative schemes are being investigated, including a much modified version of the Tai Lam Chung scheme, which, though not providing the storage capacity of the original scheme, would at least produce very much quicker results."

"The provision of water in the event of an emergency arising through a delay in the onset of the rainy season has been very closely studied, and developments in other countries in regard to the artificial production of rain are being watched with interest."

"Sir Man-kam Lo also commented on the fact that the total provision for the Social Welfare Office showed a reduction as compared with last year. Actually there has been an increase of more than \$50,000 under Personal Emoluments, but there has been a heavier decrease in the vote for welfare work."

"This vote covers the supply of free meals, where this is necessary, for the most vulnerable group in the community, expenditure on rehabilitation measures for these persons, and welfare work in respect of destitute children."

Just sufficient

"I am assured that the vote as it stands is just sufficient to continue these measures on their present scale so long as they are restricted to persons who have some genuine claim upon the Colony."

"If any disaster such as another big fire or typhoon should occur, the vote will certainly need supplementing and, if the necessity arises, I have no doubt that Finance Committee will agree to the provision of additional funds."

"I hope that Mr. P. S. Cassidy proves to be right in his suggestion that the tax on electric signs will bring in much more than \$250,000. I must confess that I did not realise that the tax on any existing sign would work out to quite such a high figure as the one of \$11,400 which he quoted."

"The estimate of \$250,000 is based on a preliminary reconnaissance carried out by the Urban Council, but without actually measuring the signs it can only be a guess. The suggestion that the tax should be extended to hoardings and painted wall signs will be gone into."

"I was glad to see that several members agreed that the present position, with cost of living allowances amounting to two thirds of the cost of basic salaries was quite absurd and that any measure of consolidation should be proceeded with."

"One Member hoped that such measures would be discussed with employers generally and this suggestion will be borne in mind. The hope was also expressed that the effect of the consolidation of pensions would be given full weight and this naturally will be done."

Pensions drop

"I would, however, take this opportunity of drawing attention to a point which is not generally realised. That is that the cost of pensions so far from having increased in the same proportion as other heads of this estimate, has actually dropped from 7.1 per cent of the total expenditure in 1939 to 3.9 per cent for the coming year."

Rapid change

"There has been some criticism that it is wrong to meet capital expenditure from current revenue. But have we really any alternative? We finally obtained the approval of the Secretary of State for the issue of a Rehabilitation Loan amounting to \$100,000."

"Unfortunately the situation changes rapidly and by the time this approval was received the favourable moment had largely passed."

"Nevertheless, we successfully issued \$50,000,000 worth of bonds but we could not have managed more at that time. There was a moment when a small loan could have been made, but certain Exchange Control difficulties in respect of the issue of bearer bonds could not be resolved at the time."

"I do not have to elaborate as the impossibility of floating any Government issue at a reasonable rate of interest on the local market at the present time. Balance of payment problems still make it necessary to keep to an absolute minimum the calls by Colonial Governments on the London market, and recourse to that market can only be sanctioned in very rare cases and then only if all other possible sources of finance have been fully utilised."

"I hope that I have said enough to show that we have little option at the moment but to meet capital expenditure from current revenue and also to emphasise the importance of building up adequate reserves."

"We have already charged some \$113,000,000 to Loan Advances and by the end of 1950-51 this figure is expected to be increased to over \$137,000,000. We have so far issued \$50,000,000 in the form of bonds and have financed the balance of this Loan expenditure from our surplus funds, thus saving very substantial sums in interest."

"As the immediate prospects of raising any further Loan are far from good, it is proposed to set off part of the surplus we have accumulated against the Loan advances. The extent to which this can be done will depend to some extent on the degree to which outstanding claims arising from the last war are satisfactorily settled at the forthcoming conference in London."

Transfer of profits

"Mr. C. E. M. Terry suggested that the deficit might be covered by a transfer of part of the profits of the Supplies and Distribution Department trading account. The present proposal is to transfer to Revenue in arrears an amount equivalent to the full cost of operating the Department during the previous year, and I should hesitate to do more than this until the department is finally wound up."

"There are several reasons for this. One is that included in the Supplies and Distribution Department Account are sums derived from the sale of stores which were purchased from War Office funds and sent out here in the early days of the re-occupation. As no documents arrived when most of the consignments were received in these days, it is extremely difficult to determine which stores were paid for by His Majesty's Government and which were purchased from Hong Kong funds."

"Certain payments have been made to the War Office on account in respect of stores which were obviously purchased from their funds, but what further sums are due is open to question. I hope that it may be possible to reach some final settlement when I am in London, as obviously the matter can only be dealt with on a rough and ready basis."

"A further point is that when the question of settling stock placed we might have incurred a very heavy exchange loss on our Japanese trading account. By taking prompt action we avoided any loss, but one never knows what new development may occur in the future. It appears to be more prudent, therefore, to wait until the department is finally wound up before making any transfers to revenue over and above the annual cost of operation of the Department."

"I have been gratified to find however that the majority of speakers have accepted the fact that the deficit on the Budget must be covered, and the difference of opinion really narrows down to the manner in which this should be accomplished."

"It has been suggested that to do this by an increase in the standard rate of tax under the Inland Revenue Ordinance is inadvisable as only some 100,000 persons, out of a population of 2,000,000 pay this tax. As one Member aptly put it, it seems wrong for the comparative few to bear the cost of providing security for the many."

Some sympathy

"I have some sympathy with this viewpoint, and I can assure you that Government has devoted much time to devising a means to ensure that persons docking into the Colony, to take advantage of the security and facilities provided, should make some contribution towards the cost of its administration. It is extremely difficult to exact any adequate contribution from the class of rich refugees, as they are mostly living on capital and are, therefore, only affected by indirect taxation."

"Perhaps I may be permitted to take up a little of Council's time to discuss very briefly some of the problems presented by a head tax. My experience leads me to believe that this system is only possible in a 'party' developed country. It might be possible by making payment of the tax a condition of the validity of ration cards, to collect it from substantial numbers of people, but there will always be large numbers who are unwilling or unable to pay."

"You could not imprison them for non-payment as this would cost more than the tax. They must, therefore, be provided with a means of working off their tax and this would prove difficult in Hong Kong, though the levelling off of a bill might be a suitable task."

"Unfortunately, it would be beyond human power to locate tax defaulters and to ensure that they actually did work off their tax and once this was realised, non-payment would become general."

Landing tax considered

"The possibility of imposing some sort of landing tax on travellers arriving by rail, sea or air has been considered, but has been rejected owing to the many difficulties to which it would give rise. I will not go into details, but one complication is that a very high proportion of travelling traders who are continually going backwards and forwards and whose journeys contribute in no degree to the trade of the Colony."

"I really can assure Members that we have considered very carefully all the suggestions for raising taxation which have been put forward and many more as well. Some of them are worth proceeding with, but the yield is comparatively trivial."

"I will not take up the time of Council by outlining the various objections to many of the others, but I will be happy to explain them in detail to anyone who may be interested. Perhaps, however, I should say that the question of a purchase tax has been considered in consultation with experts in the United Kingdom, who are leading authorities on the subject, and who have advised a number of delegations from other Governments. They agree that such a tax could not be worked satisfactorily in conditions such as exist in Hong Kong."

"It has been suggested that we should increase our duties on liquor and tobacco as an alternative to raising our direct taxation. The point about this is that Hong Kong is a free port and an entrepot. Our concern is that goods which are landed here or are manufactured here should be exported as soon as possible to other countries."

"In some cases, the goods exported, have already paid our local duty and, from time to time, because of unstable conditions, no drawback is claimed. But if our local duty is too high these goods will no longer be acceptable on these terms. Moreover we must be very careful to see that our duties do not reach a point where it will become profitable to re-introduce into Hong Kong cigarettes—for example—which have been exported from bond to a neighbouring country."

Lack of staff

"Being a free port, we do not have a large preventive staff to discourage this sort of thing, and if our duty paid exports dry up and we have to pay a greatly increased preventive staff to prevent goods being exported from bond coming back here, we shall indeed be in a sorry state."

"These remarks apply to some extent to liquor and there is also the point that a high rate of duty on Chinese liquor would give a great stimulus to the establishment of illicit stills, in respect of which we are having quite enough trouble already."

"As regards an increase in the petrol tax, I am sure that on reflection it will be realised that the cost of petrol is an important item in all distribution costs and this affects food prices and building charges. Our tax on petrol is already one of the highest in the Empire and I am afraid that any increase would only re-act unfavourably on our cost of living."

"We, therefore, seem to be left with two measures capable of producing a substantial yield, an increase in the standard rate of tax under the Inland Revenue Ordinance, and the suggestion made by Mr. Leo D'Almeida of a business registration tax. We have of course considered this latter proposal before, though admittedly not on quite the same basis. The Member, who I am sure, not object to my saying, that he was not at that time particularly enamoured with the scheme."

"Now, however, it seems to be agreed that we should have a complete register of the names of all the partners of a firm including their aliases. This indeed would be a very valuable step forward and would do much to put a stop to the kind of evasion to which I referred when moving the first reading of the Appropriation Bill."

"There are believed to be some 21,000 businesses in operation of which some 12,000 appear to make less than \$7,000 a year in profit, and are thus not liable to register tax. While I appreciate that persons who already pay profits tax will prefer to pay a business registration fee of \$300 rather than have the rate of tax increased, I cannot imagine that this 12,000 who do not pay profits tax at the moment will be particularly enthusiastic over this new levy."

"On the other hand, these traders, although their businesses are small ones, are benefiting substantially from the security which this Colony offers. It is a very unreasonable that these 12,000 traders should be required to pay a comparatively small amount towards the cost of maintaining that security."

"(Continued on Page 11)

Reminders

Today

Pharmaceutical Society, general meeting and lecture by Mr. N. J. Whelpin, at Medical headquarters, 8.15 p.m.
HK Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., annual general meeting, Jardine's board room, 12 noon.
HK Art Club, Monthly Exhibition, St. John's Cathedral hall, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (admission free)
Nine Dragons Services Club, Hong Kong Band Call, 8 p.m.
HK Club, annual and extraordinary meeting, 5.30 p.m.
Kowloon Rotary Club, luncheon, Peninsula Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Y's Men Club luncheon-meeting, Root Garden, HK Hotel, 12.45 p.m.
Amoy Canning Corporation statutory meeting, 12 noon.
Classical Music Concert, by Ricci Hall Students Association at Ricci Hall, 4.30 p.m.
Causeway Bay Kalfong Welfare Promotions Committee, annual meeting, Wing King Restaurant, 3 p.m.
British Council weekly film show, Helena May Institute, 5.30 p.m.
HK International Women's Club, informal dance for Servicemen, 7.30 p.m.
Ricci Hall Students Association, Classical Concert, at Ricci Hall, 5.15 p.m.

Coming Events

TOMORROW
Women's Section, European YMCA, Beginner's Dress-making, 10 a.m.
Organ Recital, St. John's Cathedral hall, 1.15 p.m.
Nine Dragons Services Club, Tombola, 8 p.m.
SATURDAY
Services Dance, European YMCA, 8 p.m.
Kowloon Gramophone Society, classical concert, Diocesan Boys School, 8.15 p.m.
SUNDAY
HK Art Club, sketching party to Taiipo, members to meet at Kowloon Star Ferry, 10.30 a.m.
Toe H. classical Concert, 60, MacDonnell Road, 8.30 p.m.

FORTHCOMING WEDDING

The forthcoming wedding has been announced of Joseph Beaujeu, seaman, of mv. Lightning, Pacific Far East Line, and Miss Dianna Chiang, of 23 Cameron Road, ground floor, Kowloon.

DONATIONS

The following donations to the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, have been acknowledged.
Mrs. Hooley (in memory of D. Fitzroy-Williams) \$25.
Mr. J. L. C. Pearce (in memory of D. Fitzroy-Williams) \$25.
Hon. P. S. and Mrs. Cassidy (in memory of D. Fitzroy-Williams) \$25.
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Clarke (in memory of D. Fitzroy-Williams) \$25.

Fond of Tennis?



Your hair gets hungry in this climate. Hungry for the natural oils which sun, salt water and wind draw from your scalp! If you don't replace these oils you're in for DRY SCALP and lifeless "HUNGRY HAIR". Just a few drops of "Vaseline" Hair Tonic every morning supplement the natural scalp oils and guard against dull and lifeless "HUNGRY HAIR". "Vaseline" Hair Tonic helps clear away loose dandruff and leaves your hair well-groomed and protected. Give your hair this special care.

Ask for "Vaseline" Hair Tonic. Your hair looks better, your scalp feels better.

Vaseline HAIR TONIC
Double care—both Scalp and Hair
Sole Distributors: Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.

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to His Majesty King George VI

'LIGHT DRY' SHERRY
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Sole Agents:—DODWELL & CO., LTD.

No pressure tactics in Canton bond sales

Managers of 10 leading Hong Kong firms yesterday denied that the Communist authorities in Canton had imposed pressure on their South China branches to purchase Victory Bonds within the next three days.

They said their Canton representatives had been asked to take up some units of these bonds, which are currently on sale throughout China, but no question of pressure had arisen.

Only Mr. G. R. Ross, of Dencons Limited, the solicitors, said his Canton representative had been asked to buy these bonds or face the possibility of being regarded as unfriendly to the new government.

The managers contacted yesterday said they had been in touch with Canton by phone earlier in the morning, and were told by their representatives that nothing unusual had happened.

Reports reaching Hong Kong said that with only three days to go before the bond-selling campaign reaches its deadline, the Communist authorities had imposed pressure on 10 leading foreign firms to take up huge allocations.

Mr. D. Lawrence, of Caltex Oil, said that the Caltex branch in Canton had been approached along with all the other foreign firms to buy these bonds, but no specific allocation was mentioned, nor was any deadline given.

"I guess we will have to do what the others are doing," Mr. Lawrence added. "These bonds are being sold all over China."

Mr. S. de Champeaux, of the Banque de l'Indo China, said his firm had not been troubled about these bonds and no question of pressure had arisen.

The Shell Oil Company representative said the question of allocation has been left open, but foreign concerns in Canton realise that in the end they will have to take up some of these bonds.

The bonds, termed "Victory Bonds", are priced at approximately \$100 a unit. They are redeemable in five years. A campaign for their subscription has been going on for some time throughout the Communist areas.

In Shanghai whole blocks of tenements and flats, in addition to business establishments, have been virtually compelled to buy them. Failure to do so resulted in excessive fines and sometimes in the confiscation of property.

While foreign establishments in Canton have been officially approached to purchase these bonds, Shanghai foreigners have not yet been contacted about this matter, one manager said. Chinese concerns on the other hand, have been approached several times, and at least one cotton mill was reduced to insolvency because of excessive "compulsory" purchases.

The head of Jardine, Matheson and Company in Hong Kong was not available for comment yesterday, but it is understood that Jardine, along with Butterfield and Swire and the Imperial Chemical Industries, have also been approached.

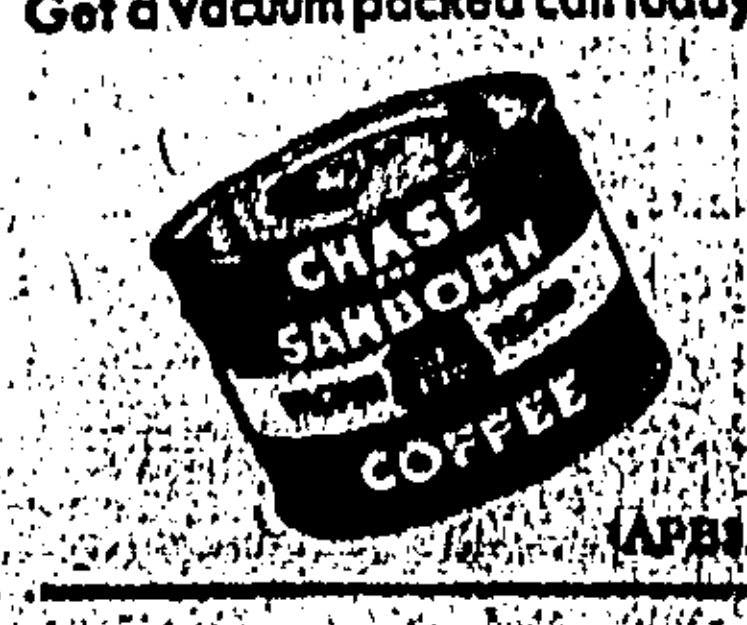
American oil executives said foreign concerns in Canton will discuss jointly the matter in a day or two, and will probably end up by subscribing to a bloc of bonds, just as the mainstay of "relations" with the authorities there.

"We have so far gone along with them in all their requirements, and it's only sensible to continue to do so," one of them declared. "But we're not operating under pressure and we probably will not take up an allocation which is too large."

The Ricci Hall Students Association will hold a Classical Concert at 8.15 p.m. today in Ricci Hall, University of Hong Kong.

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CARPETS & RUGS—Genuine Peking and Tibetan, lovely designs and colorings. Various sizes and inspect at The Ohink Rug Co., Kowloon Building, 4th Floor (Opposite Hong Kong Hotel) Queen's Road Central.

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THE HONG KONG FIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Seventy-seventh Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the offices of the Incorporated Trustees, 10, South Bay Road, on Thursday, March 30, 1950, at 11.00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers together with a Statement of Accounts for the Year ended December 31, 1949.

The Share Register and Transfer Books will be closed from March 19 to March 30, 1950, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

General Managers, The Hong Kong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Hong Kong, March 9, 1950.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Draft Programmes and Entry Forms for the Easter Race Meeting to be held on Saturday, 8th and Monday, 10th April, 1950 (weather permitting) may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Telephone House; the Club House, Happy Valley; and the Stables, Shau Kwong Road.

Entries close at 12 o'clock NOON on Thursday, 30th March, 1950.

By Order, S. A. SLEAP, Secretary.

NATURALISATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that MISS MAY WONG of 10, SOUTH BAY ROAD is applying to the Governor for naturalisation, and that any person who knows any reason why naturalisation should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the Colonial Secretary, Colonial Secretariat, Hong Kong.

NATURALISATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that RICHARD STANLEY ARTINDALE of 36 Fa Hui Street, 1st floor, Kowloon, is applying to the Governor for naturalisation, and that any person who knows any reason why naturalisation should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the Colonial Secretary, Colonial Secretariat, Hong Kong.

NATURALISATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Hugo Lau Commonly known as Lau Kwai Weng of 16 Junction Road, Grd. fl., Kowloon, is applying to the Governor for naturalisation, and that any person who knows any reason why naturalisation should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the Colonial Secretary, Colonial Secretariat, Hong Kong.

THE HONGKONG & YAU MATI FERRY CO., LTD.

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6.30 a.m. (Direct)	7.15 a.m. (Direct)
9.00 " (Via Ping Chau)	9.00 " (Via Ping Chau)
10.00 " (Direct)	11.15 " (Direct)
10.30 " (Via Ping Chau)	11.45 " (Via Ping Chau)
11.00 " (Direct)	12.15 " (Direct)
11.30 " (Via Ping Chau)	12.45 " (Via Ping Chau)
12.00 " (Direct)	1.15 " (Direct)
12.30 " (Via Ping Chau)	1.45 " (Via Ping Chau)
1.00 " (Direct)	2.15 " (Direct)
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5.00 " (Direct)	6.15 " (Direct)
5.30 " (Via Ping Chau)	6.45 " (Via Ping Chau)

SILVERMINE BAY FERRY SERVICE

Leaving Hongkong	Leaving Silvermine Bay
6.30 a.m. (Via Cheung Chau)	7.15 a.m. (Via Cheung Chau)
9.00 " (Direct)	9.00 " (Direct)
10.00 " (Via Cheung Chau)	11.15 " (Via Cheung Chau)
11.00 " (Direct)	12.15 " (Direct)
11.30 " (Via Cheung Chau)	12.45 " (Via Cheung Chau)
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PING CHAU FERRY SERVICE

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TAI O — CASTLE PEAK FERRY SERVICE

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SUNDAY EXCURSION — DIRECT FERRY TO TAI O

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DEEP BAY (NAM TAU) SERVICE

Leaving Hongkong	Leaving Deep Bay
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CHINA ENTERTAINMENT AND LAND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Sixteenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, King's Theatre Building, 5th floor, on Friday, the 31st day of March 1950 at 12 o'clock noon, to receive the Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1949, and to elect Directors and Auditors in the place of those retiring, to declare a dividend and bonus, to appropriate the balance of Profit and Loss Account as recommended by the Directors, and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN that the Register of Members of the Company will be closed from the 22nd to the 31st day of March 1950 both days inclusive.

GEORGE Y. K. SUN, Secretary.

Hong Kong, March 28, 1950.

HARRY WICKING AND COMPANY LIMITED.

COMPANIES (RE-CONSTRUCTION OF RECORDS) ORDINANCE 1947.

HARRY WICKING AND COMPANY LIMITED (hereinafter called "the Company") has lost its Memorandum of Association and is proposing to adopt a New Memorandum of Association under the provisions of Section 9 of the above Ordinance.

Copies of the proposed New Memorandum of Association may be inspected at the Company's Registered Office, Prince's Building, Victoria, Hong Kong during ordinary business hours.

All persons who wish to raise objections to the proposed New Memorandum, should file a brief statement in writing of such objections with the Registrar of Companies, Hong Kong, on or before the 23rd day of June 1950.

All persons raising such objections should also file an address for service within the Colony of Hong Kong with the Registrar of Companies.

DEACONS Solicitors for Harry Wicking & Company Limited.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that as from Saturday April 1, 1950, the firms of Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Chartered Accountants, and Messrs. Percy Smith & Co., Chartered Accountants, will amalgamate and continue in business under the firm name of—

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.

The partners of the amalgamated firm will remain the same as the former partners of Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. and Messrs. Percy Smith & Co., and the staff of the amalgamated firm will include all the former members of the staffs of the two firms.

The offices of the amalgamated firm will be situated in the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank Building, 2nd Floor, Telephone No. 30251. Until further notice there will be an additional office at Telephone House, Telephone Nos. 27794/5.

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO. PERCY SMITH & CO.

March 29, 1950.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at St. Andrew's Church Hall on Wednesday, 5th April 1950, at 8.30 p.m.

Membership forms may be had on application to P.O. Box 1752, Kowloon.

It is requested that members should make every effort to attend this meeting.

By Order of the General Committee.

P. Y. W. MOON, Secretary.

101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1023, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1049, 1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343,

OPENS TODAY **Queens** At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

GABLE'S MOST EXCITING HIT IN YEARS
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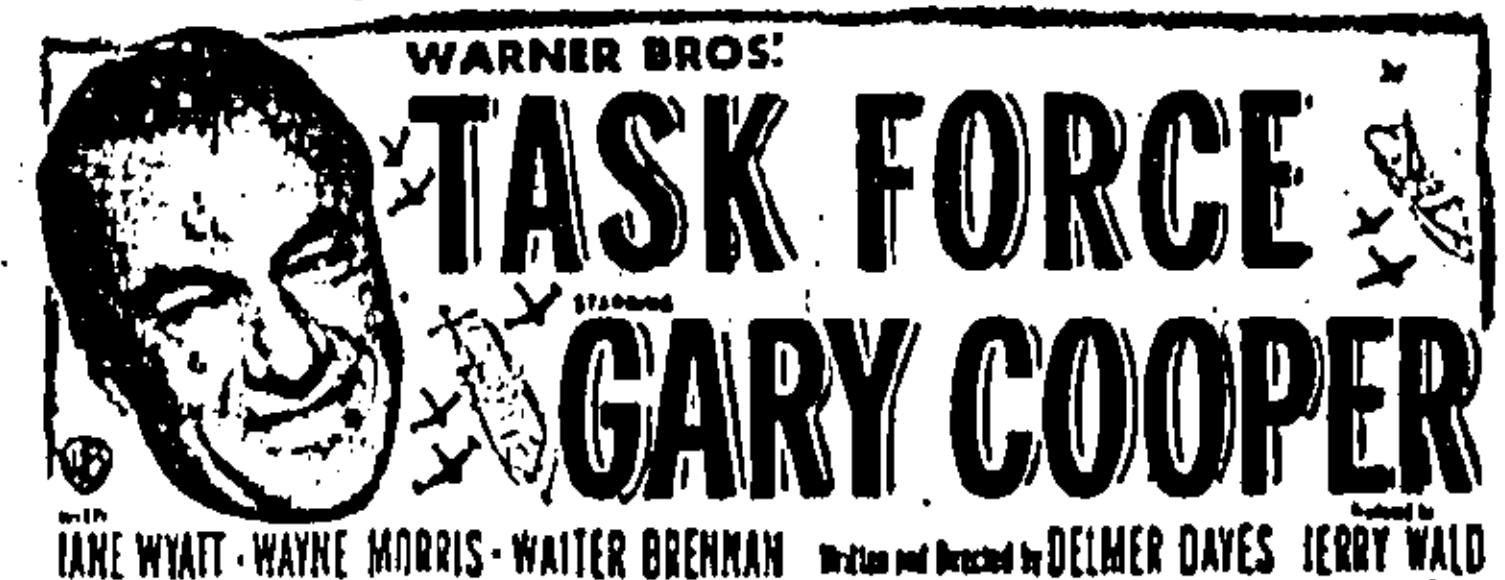


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ERROL FLYNN * RONALD REAGAN IN
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Nehru stumbling block in plans for South East Asian Marshall Plan

New York, March 28.

United States efforts against Communism in the Far East were being blocked by the refusal of the Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, to join in a Marshall Aid plan for his part of the world, the "New York Post's" Washington columnist, Mr. Robert E. Allen, wrote today. Without India, he said, the plan could not hope to succeed.

Truce in Belgian crisis

Brussels, March 28.

Defence problems will cause a three-day "truce" in Belgium's crisis over the future of exiled King Leopold, the Liberal Prime Minister-designate, M. Albert Devezé, said tonight.

Even before the five-year-old Royal problem is solved, Parliament may be summoned by M. Guston Eykens, the Catholic Premier of the "caretaker" Government, to ratify the arms aid agreement with the United States.

Such a meeting is not barred, M. Devezé said. Ratification of this agreement and the country's defence problems demanded an "urgent solution to our domestic problems," he added.

The Liberal leader, called by the (Hogent, Prince Charles, to seek a way out of the deadlock when the pro-Leopold Catholics had failed to form a new Government, will report to the Regent on his efforts tomorrow morning.

Tomorrow night he will interrupt his negotiations to go to The Hague for the Atlantic Pact Staff talks. He hopes to be back in Brussels on Sunday.

Decisive developments must be expected at the beginning of next week, he said. "I am determined to go to the very outside limit of conciliation in my search of a solution to Belgium's Royal problem," M. Devezé added. "If I fail, I will have to take a decision. It may well be that my decision will necessitate a visit to King Leopold."—Reuter.

Attlee rejects commission to probe Reds

London, March 28.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, today rejected the idea of a Royal Commission to probe Communist spying in Britain in 1946.

Sir Waldron Smithers, Conservative, urged this in the House of Commons because of facts that emerged from the trial of the atom spy, Klaus Fuchs, and evidence in the report of the Royal Commission on the Canadian spy trial.

After Mr. Attlee had briefly replied "No," Sir Waldron went on to question whether the Prime Minister really meant business when he said that he was anti-Communist.

As a first step, he suggested that Mr. Attlee should apply the same security regulations to members of his war Cabinet, including the War Minister, Mr. John Strachey, as were applied to civil servants.

This brought a rebuke from the Speaker (Chairman), Colonel Douglas Clifton-Brown, who said that he must not make imputations against the patriotism of Members.

Labour Members clamoured for a withdrawal of the remark, but the Speaker said he thought that his rebuke was good enough.

Sir Waldron's reference to Mr.

In Washington the stage had been set for launching a Marshall Plan for the Pacific South East but everything was being stymied by Mr. Nehru. Mr. Allen wrote.

He added, "Hoffman (ECA chief) explained the serious impasse in a talk with Representative Abraham Ribicoff (Democrat, Connecticut) and Senator William Benton (Democrat, Connecticut). The ECA chief made no secret of his concern.

"Hoffman attributed Nehru's stand to fear of involvement with Russia."

Mr. Allen quoted Mr. Hoffman as having said, "Nehru is determined to be neutral. He feels that participation in a reconstruction programme sponsored by the United States would be considered an affront by the Russians. So he is holding aloof, although without India, a South East Asia reconstruction programme would not succeed."

The columnist said that Senator Benton pointed out that during his visit to the United States last year Mr. Nehru tried to buy 10,000,000 bushels of surplus wheat at low terms. India needed the grain badly, and the United States was willing to sell.

"But Nehru balked when the State Department proposed tying up the deal to India's taking an active part in the cold war against Russia," Mr. Allen said. He then quoted Representative Ribicoff as saying, "For Nehru to try to be neutral seems to me to be sheer folly. In the kind of a world we are living in today, a country of the size and importance of India just cannot be neutral."

Mr. Hoffman did not comment, the columnist continued. Instead, he said that the State Department had overruled his plan to continue the ECA Mission in China even after the change in Government.

On Malaya

In London, meanwhile, three national British newspapers nominated leading articles today on the war in Malaya.

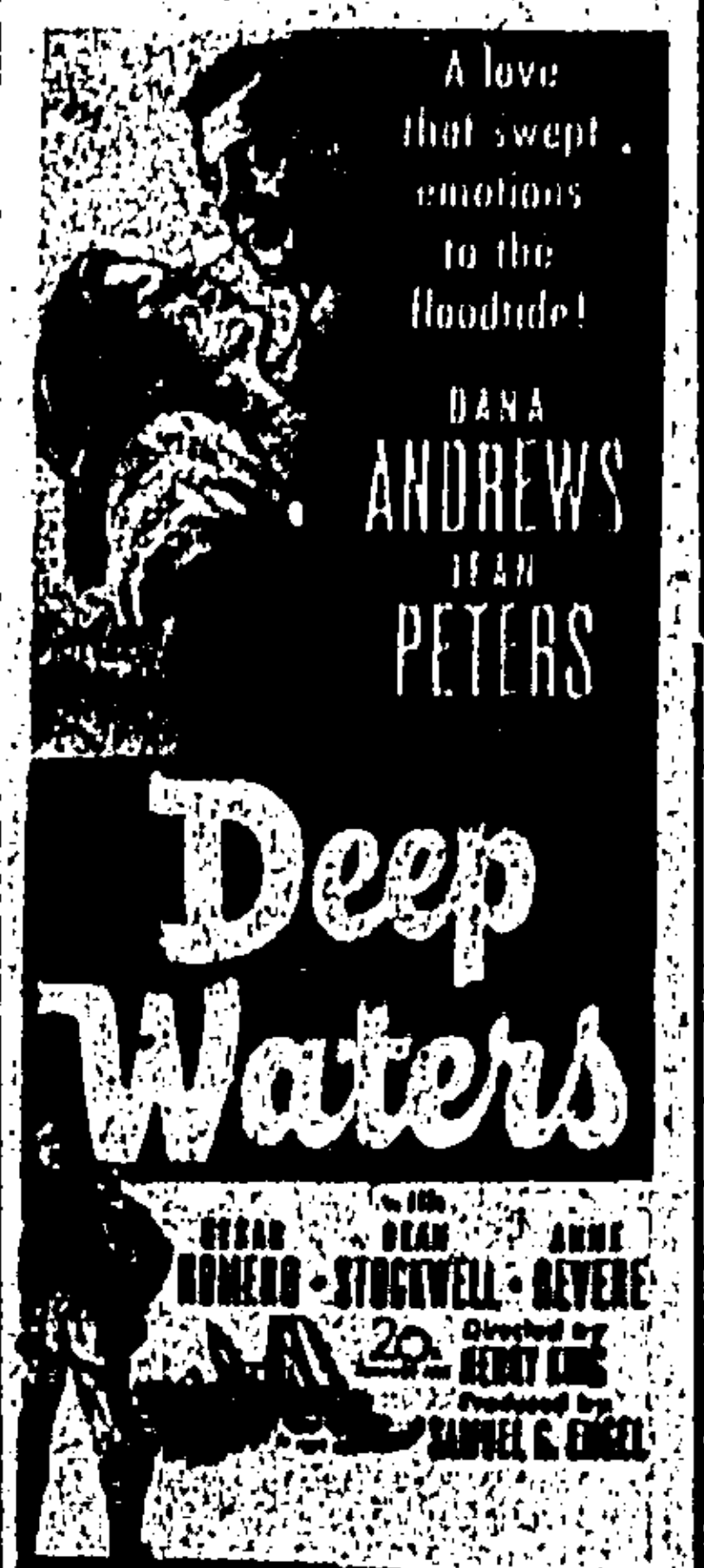
The Conservative "Daily Mail" said, "Now the treacherous Communists are demanding a boycott on the shipment of arms and war materials to Malaya. They want dock workers to keep back equipment which will save our young soldiers' lives."

The Labour "Daily Herald" said, "Good government, thriving trade unionism, improving conditions."

Strachey arose from an allegation by the London newspaper, Evening Standard; on March 2 that Mr. Strachey had not disavowed his early pro-Communist writings. Mr. Strachey issued a statement quoting later writings in which he did repudiate Communism.—Reuter.

STAR Phone 58335

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March 31st — April 1st
"CRY OF THE CITY"

Starring Victor Mature • Richard Conte

Pakistan, Indian PM's to meet

New Delhi, March 28.

The Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, is expected to arrive in New Delhi on Sunday, April 2, for his conference with the Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on the Bengal situation.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan's statement in the Pakistan Parliament today is considered in Indian Government circles as friendly and reciprocating the Indian Premier's anxiety to resolve the problem created by communal disturbances in East and West Bengal.

The main task before the two prime Ministers, according to observers here, will be to devise measures to stop the exodus of minorities from either side and to put an end to frequent communal violence and also to find a formula, which would ensure implementation of agreed measures.

Meanwhile, the migration of minorities from the two Dominions continues, though incidents involving violence have declined on the whole. According to the latest authoritative reports, the influx of Hindu refugees from East Bengal into West Bengal has registered a sharp increase in the last three or four days, number of those coming into India by railway alone averaging between 15,000 and 20,000 daily.

The number of Moslems leaving India for Pakistan on the other hand has been computed at about 4,000 per day.—Reuter.

New right wing party in Germany

Hamburg, March 28.

A new right wing splinter party, the "Right Socialist German Workers Party," made its bow to the public at a press conference here today.

The name of the party differs from Hitler's "National Socialist German Workers Party" only in the first word.

The chairman, Herr Herbert Ritter, denied arguments by the press that he had chosen this name to attract former Nazis.

The new Party stands for the reintroduction of the former German Reich's flag—black, white and red—the re-establishment of a German Reich, the return of Eastern German refugees into the former German provinces now administered by Poland, the reconstruction of an unlimited German merchant fleet and the common utilisation of Europe's economic resources.

Herr Ritter then declared that his Party was not only Socialist but also Liberal, and that it was German national as well as European. Explaining its attitude towards Europe, Herr Ritter said he advocated the "cartellisation" of the West German iron, steel and coal industries and their combination with other European industries in one large concern.—Reuter.

BURMA TRAIN DYNAMITED

Rangoon, March 28.

The Burmese Government reported today that guerrillas dynamited a train near Mandalay, killing nine persons and injuring many more.

Rebels opened fire on survivors after a dynamite blast derailed the engine and seven coaches, the announcement said. The train was proceeding from Sagaing on the Irrawaddy River to Mawlaikya, capital of Kachin State in Northern Burma.—Associated Press.



IN FULL COLOR with ALL NATIVE CAST

THE MAD FRENZY OF MYSTIC RITES

THE ANGRY GOD

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CHURCHILL CALLS FOR A UNITED EUROPE

Germany, France and Britain to form core of European union

NO IMMINENT DANGER OF WAR

London, March 28.

Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's war leader, today called on Germany and France to clasp hands in concord and, with Britain, build a core to which the free nations of Europe could rally.

Opening the first foreign affairs debate of the new Parliament, the Conservative chief calmly explained he did not believe that another war was imminent.

But he returned to his suggestion of highest level talks with Moscow, insisting: "Those who are responsible must not fail to seize every opportunity. We cannot go on with a policy of hesitation and drift. Every day is precious."

Mr. Churchill said: "I feel that we owe it to our conscience that no door should be closed which might lead to better prospects. The Democracies of the West must be constantly convinced that those who lead them do not despair of peace."

Of uniting Europe, the theme of his speech, the Opposition leader declared: "There can be no hope for a united Europe without Germany—there is no hope for Germany except within a free and united Europe."

Mr. Churchill added: "I see no reason why the Germans should not aid in the defence of their country and Western Europe or that American, British, French and German soldiers should not stand in comradeship as part of a combined system of defence."

Mr. Churchill warned that time was not necessarily on the side of the West. "If there is a breathing space, it would be a grave mistake—perhaps a fatal mistake—to suppose that it will last for more than a few years. There was no doubt that the passing of time would place the fearful agencies of atomic destruction effectively in Soviet hands. If Russia had 50 atomic bombs 'we should get those 50, and fearful experiences far beyond anything we have endured would be our lot'."

Mr. Churchill began by reaffirming his Party's intention to continue to support the Government's foreign policy—"as we did during the years when we were hopelessly outnumbered."

So long as the Foreign Secretary marches forward on the broad lines of policy on which we have been agreed he has overwhelming Parliamentary support," Mr. Churchill added.

"The fact that this Government has a precarious existence (a present majority of three) need not hamper him," Mr. Churchill declared.

"Our conscience" Speaking of British relations with Russia, and explaining why he did not believe another war was imminent or inevitable, Mr. Churchill said: "I feel that we owe it to our conscience that no door should be closed which might lead to better prospects."

"The Democracies of the West must be constantly convinced that those who lead them do not despair of peace."

Replying to the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee's charge that he was irresponsible in recently mentioning Germany in relation to Western Union defence, Mr. Winston Churchill said: "I picked my words carefully and I do not wish to modify them in any way today. I see no reason why the Germans should not aid in the defence of their own country and of Western Europe."

He continued: "The Prime Minister accused me last week of irresponsibility in raising the question of Germany—by which I mean liberated Germany—taking part in Western Union defence."

"My feeling is, if the Prime Minister will allow me to say so, that I am as good a judge of these matters as he is."

"I said nothing about the rearmament of Germany and the rearming of a German Army. But I see no reason why Germans should not aid in the defence of their own country and Western Europe, or that American, British, French and German soldiers should not stand in comradeship as part of a combined system of defence."

Mr. Churchill said the strong German race which, during the last 40 years, Britain and her Allies had fought and defeated twice, has now an opportunity of rendering an immense service to mankind.

"They now have the chance of redeeming the German name by helping to repair what has happened in the past and by playing their part in lifting 'the civilisation of Europe to a level where its old glories may revive and culture may be restored.'"

No hope without Germany.

"There can be no hope for a united Europe without Germany," Mr. Churchill declared, adding: "There is no hope for Germany except within a free and united Europe."

Recalling his speech at Zurich nearly four years ago, when he said it would be the proud duty of France to stretch forth her hand, and lead Germany back into the European family, Mr. Churchill observed:

"Since then the whole structure of West Europe has developed. We are presently to have a meeting at Strasbourg of the European Council and Assembly when, we trust, that in spite of all that has happened French and German hands will be clasped in concord."

Mr. Churchill declared: "I recommend to the House that we should do all in our power to encourage and promote Franco-German reconciliation as an approach to unity—or even perhaps in some aspects, to union."

"But France, after her tribulations and in her present distressed condition, may not be strong enough to accomplish single-handed her mission. That is why the irreparable relationship between Britain and France must be confirmed and asserted continually in the most effective manner."

"France and Britain, both sorely distressed, could bind together."

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and thus joined, have the superior power to raise Germany, even more shattered, to an equal rank and to lasting association with them.

A nucleus

"Then these three countries, helping each other, conscious of their future united greatness, forgetting the ancient feuds and horrible deeds and tragedies of the past, could make the core or the nucleus on which all the other civilised democracies of Europe, bond or free, could rally and combine."

"There was a time," Mr. Churchill said, "when men thought that the conception of a United States of Europe would be represented by the United States of America, but now we have the American people, with their own heavy burdens to bear, sacrificing themselves and using all their power and authority to bring about this very system."

Mr. Churchill added solemnly: "In this lies the hope of the Western world."

Mr. Churchill referred to the recent proposal of Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the West German Federal Chancellor, for an economic union between Germany and France and to the conciliatory way in which the proposal had been welcomed by General Charles de Gaulle.

"Surely it lies close to the roots of the matter," Mr. Churchill commented. "But what we want is, of course, far more than that."

Mr. Churchill predicted that 1950 could be made the occasion for launching Europe on its voyage with peace and energy. He said the first stage was to create a friendly atmosphere and feelings of mutual confidence and respect in Europe. Every day of delay in working hard for this was a matter for regret.

"I have always held that the cause of a united Europe would not be helped and might well be injured by attempts to draw up precise and rigid constitutions and agreements too soon or in a hurry," he commented.

"The presence of Germany in our midst will be an event from which nothing but good can come."

Mr. Churchill declared: "I would say to Germany—let it all happen naturally and easily, and you will find that very soon Germany will take her proper place and that all questions of legislative status will cease to be of any importance."

Detonants strong

"There never was a time when the detonants against war were so strong. If penalties can prevent crime and folly, we certainly have that here on a gigantic scale in the affairs of nations."

"Many of the old incentives which were the causes of the beginnings of many wars have lost their significance," he said. "Another world war would begin by both sides suffering, as the first step, what they dread most."

Neither side could prevent the fearful catastrophes which would mark its opening.

Referring to his General Election campaign proposal for Big Three talks to end the cold war, Mr. Churchill said: "I feel that we owe it to our conscience that no door should be closed which might lead to better prospects."

No one should underestimate the difficulties in the way of a settlement. But even more than the gulf separating the two worlds, each armed and aiming, reaching out for agencies that might eventually destroy the human race, Mr. Churchill said, he thought it probable that the Soviet Government feared the splendour of the West, even more than they did the possibility of an endless series of quibbles, the consciousness of an outside enemy in the minds of the masses might be regarded by the Soviets as a necessary precautionary element in maintaining the existence of the Communist power.

"Here, indeed, is a gloomy thought—here, indeed, is a reason for fear," observed Mr. Churchill. "But fear must never be allowed to blind but hope," he added.

"I do not take an over sanguine view of the position," Mr. Churchill said, adding that he considered it their duty to do their best. "Moscow, the Democracies of the West must be constantly convinced that those who led them did not despair of peace if they were to take even the measures which preservation demanded in case the worst should come to the worst."

Fatal mistake

"But if there is a breathing space it would be a grave mistake of a different order—perhaps a fatal mistake—to suppose that even if we have this interlude it will last for ever or last even more than a few years."

"Time and science, those powerful, though not infallible, solvents of human difficulties, are not necessarily on our side." When the last Parliament met, Mr. Churchill had mentioned four years as a period before which any power, other than the United States, might have the atomic bomb. Today he said: "That period has gone by and our position is desperately worse, in this matter, both as regards our own safety and the conditions which I believe are effectively preserving the peace of the world."

"There is no doubt that the passage of time will place these fearful agencies of atomic destruction effectively in Soviet hands—that is to say, in hands where there is no customary, traditional, moral or religious restraint," Mr. Churchill declared.

"Of course, the United States has the stockpile and it will only be by a gradual process that anything similar could be built up in the Soviet Union."

The atomic bomb was only one factor in the military situation, but it was the dominant factor. "But if the United States had a stockpile of 1,000 atomic bombs—I take the figure merely as an illustration—and Russia had 50, we should get those 50, and fearful experiences far beyond any of things we have ever endured would be our lot," Mr. Churchill said.

"Therefore, while I believe there is time for a further effort for a lasting and peaceful settlement, I cannot feel it is necessarily a long time, or that its passage will progressively improve our own security. Above all things we must not fritter this time away."

(Continued On Page 9)

Integrated defence plan for North Atlantic region

The Hague, March 28.

The Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has unanimously agreed on an integrated defence plan for the defence of the North Atlantic area, it was announced here today.

A communiqué said that the plan will be submitted to the Defence Ministers at their meeting in The Hague on April 1.

The plan has been developed from the regional plans by the Standing Group, which is in permanent session in Washington and acts on behalf of the Military Committee.

The Chiefs of Staff examined the special potentialities of each country and took into account the importance of such abilities while drawing up the general plan. The necessary close co-ordination of the work of the Military Committee with that of the other Atlantic Treaty agencies concerned with the financial, economic and supply implications of the plan is being effected.

Members of the Military Committee unanimously agreed that planning had progressed more rapidly than had been expected due in large measure to the outstanding work of each of the five regional planning groups and the Standing Group.

Details considered

The Military Committee also considered details of organisation and planning which have resulted from the recommendations from the Regional Planning Groups and the Standing Group during the six months that the committee has been in active existence.

The communiqué says that the new defence plan "is based on the agreed strategic concept of the North Atlantic Pact countries. It emphasises the responsibilities assumed by each nation to participate, with the maximum forces it can provide, in assuring the continued security of the territories covered by the North Atlantic Organisation."

It emphasised also the principles of a harmonisation and integration of regional efforts to set up a collective defence organisation to maintain the peace and defend the North Atlantic area against aggression.

The chiefs of staff met here under the chairmanship of General Omar Bradley of the United States not only to approve the defence plan, but for what, well-informed quarters said, was a comprehensive study of Russia's war potential.

The communiqué did not mention the allocation of ground, sea, and air responsibility among the nations, but "informed sources" said the general division was: First, the United States will be responsible for strategic bombing, and will play the role of the "arsenal of the Atlantic."

Secondly, the United States, Britain, France, and the Netherlands take responsibility for naval superiority.

Thirdly, Britain and France supply anti-aircraft and radar screens for Western Europe, and carry out tactical bombing in support of their ground forces and of the communications zone of any aggressor with fighter planes and medium-range aircraft.

Fourthly, France and the other continental participants provide the ground forces needed to immediately resist an attack, pending full mobilisation of the Atlantic Pact partners across the sea.—United Press.

Big Three foreign chiefs to meet

Washington, March 28.

British officials here said today that the British, French and United States Foreign Ministers would meet in London on May 8 or 9, probably the former date.

The British Ambassador in Washington, Sir Oliver Franks, discussed arrangements for the conference at an interview with the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, yesterday.

Mr. Acheson will fly to London, and will be available for a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the North Atlantic Powers in London. This meeting is expected to follow the Big Three conference.

The agenda for the Big Three conference is expected to cover a wide range of both European and Asian problems, including relations with the Soviet Union, proposals for a Japanese peace treaty, and resistance to the spread of Communism, particularly in South East Asia.—Reuter.

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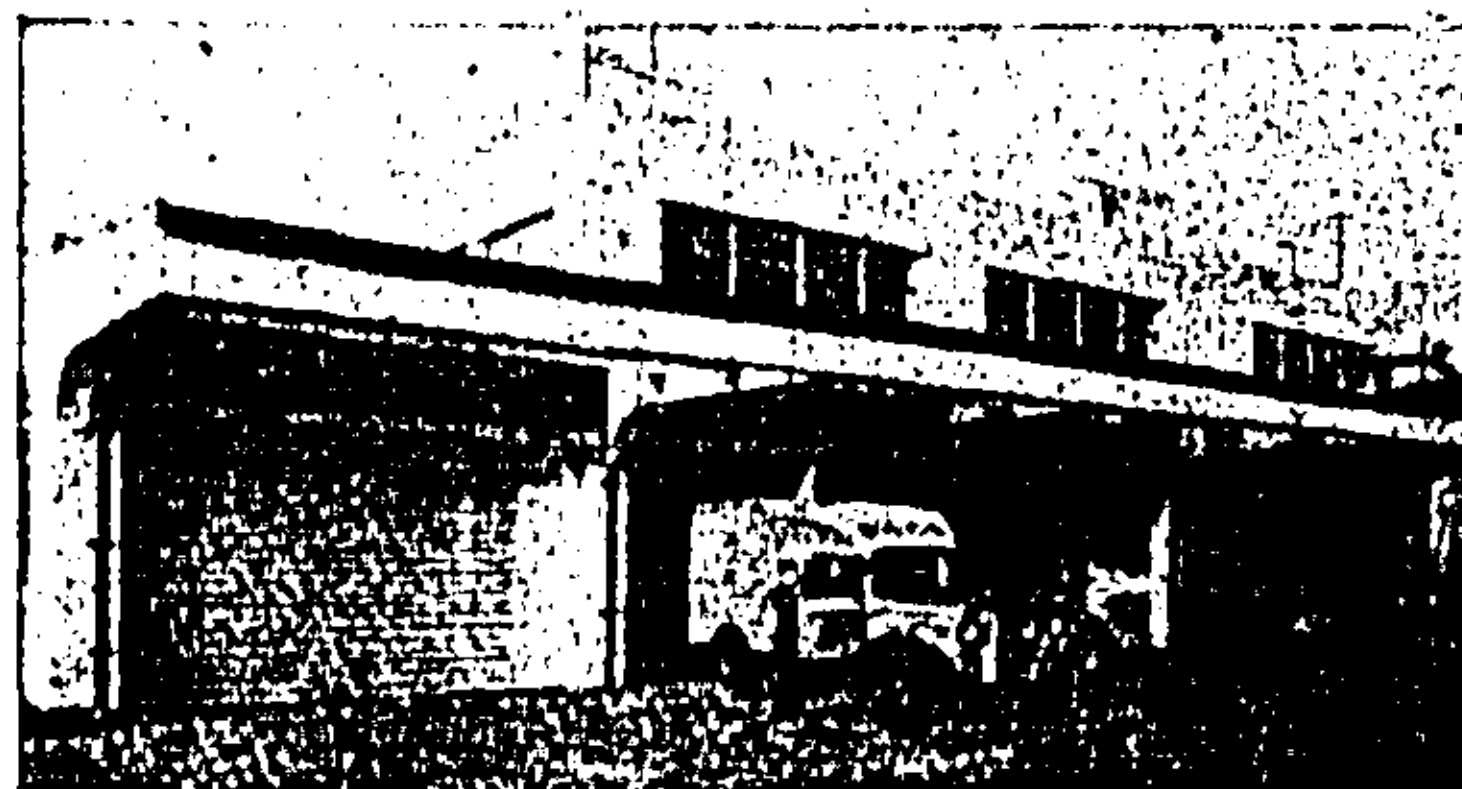
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ENGINEERING PAGE



Suitable container for Royal carpet

QUEEN MARY'S CARPET.

The carpet given by Queen Mary to the nation will shortly start on its way to North America where it is to be sold as a contribution to the dollar drive. Before the closing date for bids, it is to visit some 20 Canadian and American cities where it will be placed on exhibition.

The safe-keeping of the carpet on its travels has naturally been a matter of great concern to the Committee entrusted with its disposal. Police arrangements are being worked out with the authorities of each of the cities it will visit.

But the Committee in addition turned to Messrs. Chubb and Sons, who hold the Royal Warrant as His Majesty's Patent Lock and Safe Makers, asking for their help in providing a suitable container.

As a result Messrs. Chubb have presented to the Committee a special chest, designed by Mr. Frankland Clark, F.R.I.B.A., F.I.A.S., in which the carpet will travel. The chest, of English brown oak, lined with stainless steel, measures about four feet by three feet and a half, stands 14 inches high on special bronze feet, and is fitted with hand-made locks incorporating special safety devices. Queen Mary's own cipher and crown in ivory are inlaid in the centre of the lid.

For the quilting which cushions the interior of the chest, the Committee asked Women's Home Industries to have the work put in hand and they selected from among their many skilled workers, Mrs. Amy Thomas, of Cynon Street, Aberdare, a Welsh quilt wife who learnt her craft in Carmarthenshire more than 50 years ago.

Beige Velvet

The quilting is of beige velvet, to match the predominating colour in the carpet, lined with white sharkskin and filled with four thicknesses of a new material called "domett". A simple Welsh traditional design of inter-

locking circles has been used, with the halves of each circle worked to form a leaf pattern. In the inside of the lid, Queen Mary's coat-of-arms has been worked in full colours and threads of precious metals.

The chest will also contain three portraits of Queen Mary in a tryptich frame, (presented by Messrs. Aspreys Limited who hold the Royal Warrant as Jewellers and Silversmiths,) made of aluminium covered in pigskin and surmounted with a gold crown and cipher.

New Osram fluorescent lighting

In printing, textile, paint, chemical, paper, food and photographic industries—and in numerous others where colour matching or discrimination is carried out—there has been a long-felt need for a light source that is closely comparable with a "north sky" daylight.

Operators on night shifts or working after dark must be enabled to see colours with the same values as the day workers, in order to avoid confusion and possible disappointing or inaccurate results. Also, where a process is carried out entirely under artificial light it is essential for this light to be a faithful reproduction of natural daylight.

The Osram Colour Matching Fluorescent lamp fulfils just these requirements. Particular care in production ensures a uniformity of colour rendering in each lamp manufactured. Careful preparation of the fluorescent powders results in light which closely corresponds to that of an overcast North sky. This approximates to a colour temperature of 6,500 degrees Kelvin.

As with other lamps in the Osram Fluorescent range, the requisite illumination is obtained with less than half the current used by tungsten filament lamps of the equivalent light output. The Osram Colour Matching Fluorescent lamp, which is available in the 8 ft. 6 in. and 4 ft. 6 in. sizes can be used with the same auxiliary gear and fittings as the existing 8 ft. and 4 ft. lamps. It is also made in the 9 ft. cold cathode type.

NEW 125-TON PLASTIC PRESS

The largest industrial building constructed in timber in Britain since the war has been opened at Kingston Wharf, Shortham, Sussex, for timber storage.

It covers over half an acre, embodies the most up-to-date technique in design, and is regarded as an outstanding example of the use of timber to save steel required for export.

Fifty-five tons of timber have done the work of 79 tons of steel, representing a saving in tonnage of over 30 per cent.

An interesting, self-contained upstroke compression moulding press, fully hydraulic in operation with single lever control for closing and opening, has just been produced by the Tunnel Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Wolverhampton.

In this press the ejectors are of the mechanical type and fitted for top ejection. Bottom ejectors, which can be adapted for central or side operation, have separate hydraulic resetting. The capacity of this new press provides a mould closing force of 125 tons maximum with a 20 tons minimum, and a mould opening force of 12½ tons maximum with a two tons minimum.

Careful thought has been given to the construction of the details of the press. The tension columns consist of steel plates, and the guides for the moving platen are machined on these columns.

The guide blocks are adjustable for wear and are made from sintered bronze material. The ram takes the form of a piston, the head of which is a close fit into a honed cylinder.

Hydraulic opening

The annular space between the piston head is used for opening the press hydraulically.

The top and moving platens are equipped with bolsters, hotplate, insulation and electric hotplates measuring 31 by 23 in., wired for a three-phase supply. Each hotplate is fitted with a thermostat adjustable between 200 and 400 deg. F.

Controls are mounted in a steel instrument panel placed to the left of the operator. The pumping unit with a delivery of 7 gal./min. at 2,500 p.s.i., is mounted on the left of the press with the electrical gear and the instrument panel immediately above.

The hydraulic system is designed to enable the single high-pressure pump to combine the duties of a low and a high pressure pump.

The pump is working against low pressure during the approach stroke at high speed, and an adjustable slow-down valve automatically comes into operation for the final pressing.

The pump is automatically unloaded when final closing pressure is reached, but full pressure is maintained. The closing force can be varied by a handwheel control fitted to the pump.

Push-button controls are provided for motor and hotplates. Hotplate temperatures are automatically controlled by adjustable thermostats.

Pressure built-up

When the control lever is pulled forward, the press closes at maximum speed until the automatic slow down valve comes into operation. When the press is finally closed the pressure builds up to a predetermined point.

The interval timer is set by moving an indicator against the stop. At the end of the curing time the warning light on the timer is automatically extinguished.

When the control lever is moved back to the full extent, the moulds open and the ram descends, automatically operating the ejectors at the end of the stroke.

It may be noted that the above operations can be carried out only when the safety guard is closed.

Resetting ejectors

The bottom ejectors are reset by depressing the lever provided. This operation can be carried out whilst the guard is open. When not in use, the hydraulic resetting rams for the ejectors can be put out of circuit by closing a valve provided for this purpose.

All parts of the machine are machined to a high standard of accuracy and finished to reduce wear to a minimum, and every press is subjected to searching tests under full load before leaving the works.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Large-scale developments involving the expenditure of about £500,000 are planned at the Wolverhampton works of Joseph Sankey and Sons, Ltd., steel-sheet manufacturers.

(They include new research laboratories, costing about £100,000, which will serve all the 80 works of Guest, Keen and Nottelsheds, Ltd., of which Joseph Sankey is a subsidiary.)

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The unit is enclosed in a louvre ventilated cream finish sheet metal case, with the switch, fuses, indicator lamp and charge rate indicator carried on a gilt backed 'perspex' type panel. On the input side, 4 ft. of 3-core T.R.S. flexible is provided for connection to the A. C. supply and on the output side 4 ft. twin T.R.S. flexible fitted with two "Bulldog" type battery clips.

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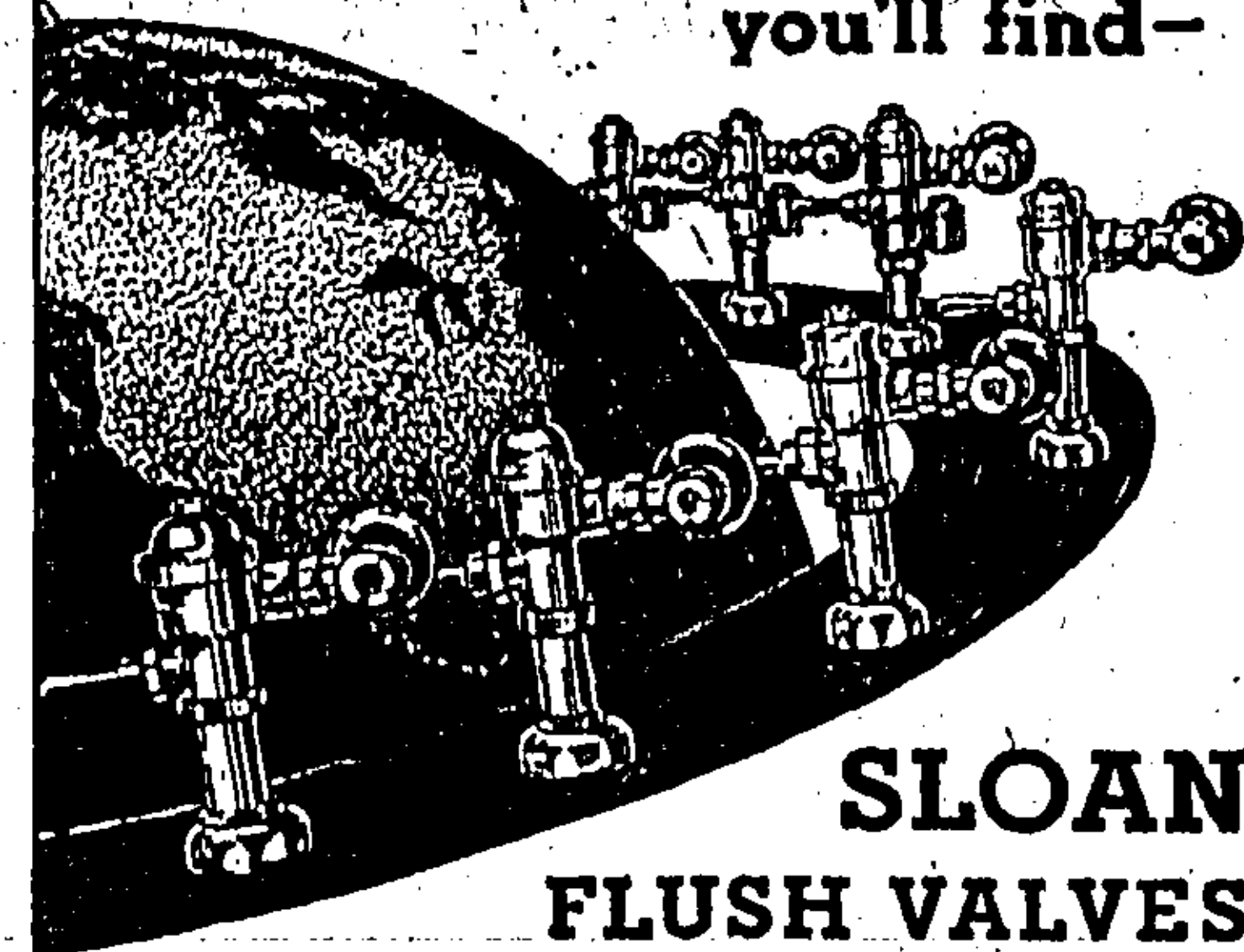
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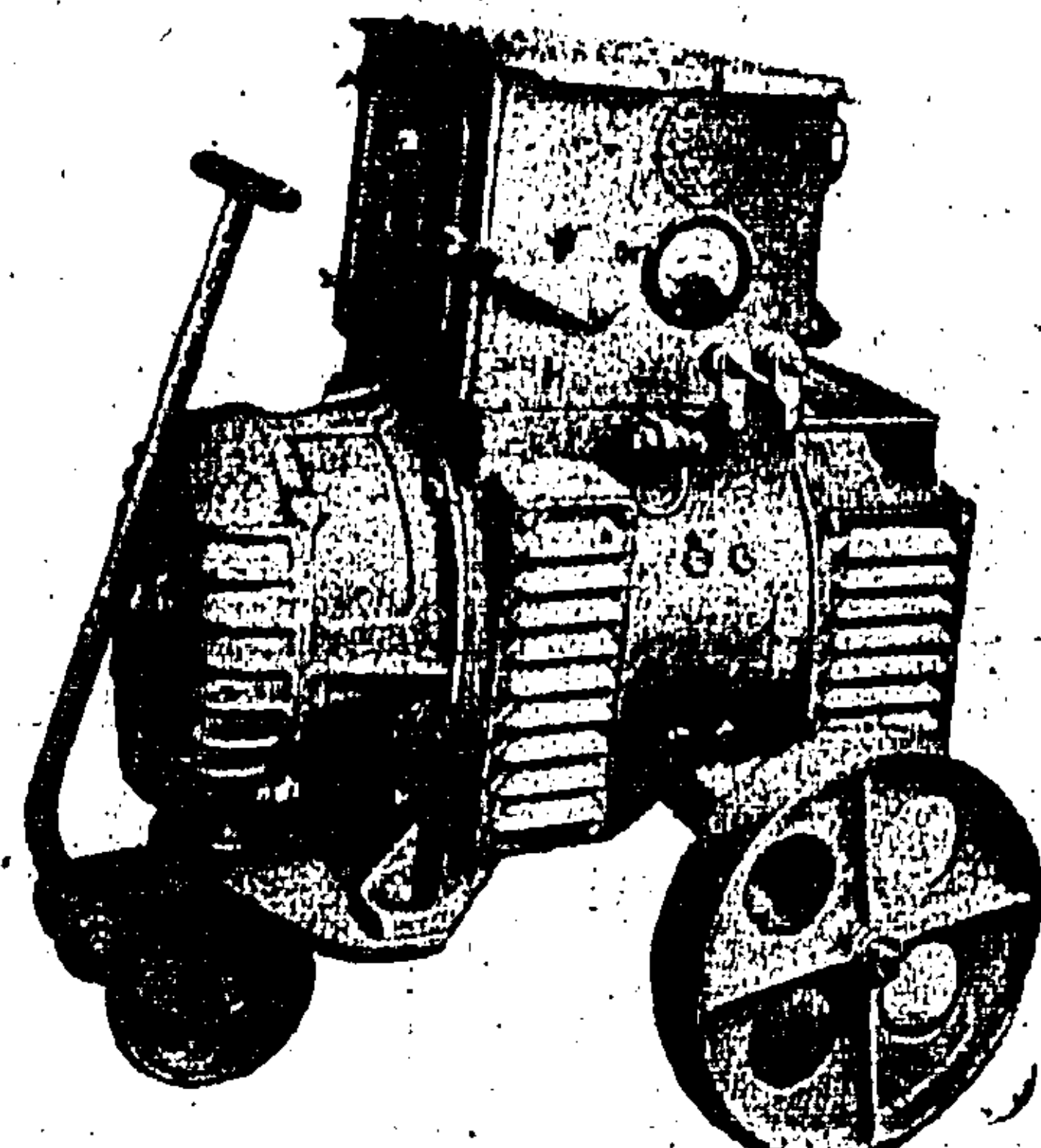
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STRONG PRESSURE IN U.S. FOR EARLY JAP TREATY

Arab League committee adjourns

Cairo, March 28. The Arab League's Political Committee adjourned a two-hour meeting this morning still without giving any official indication whether it planned to bar Jordan from the League.

The ejection of King Abdullah's state, which other League members suspect of making secret agreements with Israel, was widely expected to be one of the earliest actions of the current League session which opened on Saturday. Jordan has not sent a representative to the meeting.

Reliable sources said the League delegates still favoured the exclusion of Jordan from the League but have been prevailed upon to reserve any drastic action in that direction pending the arrival of the Lebanese leader, Camille Chamoun. He arrived on Monday.

Chamoun denial

However, Chamoun denied that he came here at the League invitation to mediate in the dispute between King Abdullah and the League. According to the Arab Press, Colonel Abdullah El Tel, Jordan's former military governor in Jerusalem who has been staying here since he quit his post some months ago in a split over Jordan's policy in Palestine, cabled the heads of the delegations in the Arab Council, demanding that Jordan leaders be tried in absentia.

Interpreting Jordan's absence from the current League session as "evidence which proves guilt," Col. El Tel was quoted as saying, "In the name of innocent Jordanian people who have been stabbed in their honour as a result of the policy of their rulers, I request that an investigation be held and that the accused be tried in absentia."

Press reports said Colonel El Tel told the delegates that he

Washington, March 29. Strong pressure is building up inside the Truman administration for an early peace treaty with Japan.

The Roving Ambassador, Dr. Philip C. Jessup, is understood to have advised State and Defence Department leaders that he considers such a step desirable.

General Douglas MacArthur is authoritatively reported to have expressed the same view to American diplomats who have conferred with him in recent weeks.

Dr. Jessup and the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, are to appear before Senate and House Foreign Committee today and the proposed treaty may be discussed then.

The pressures which have been building up may force a decision soon between those who want an early peace treaty—a group principally in the State Department—and those who believe that the treaty project should be shelved in order to prolong indefinitely the present American control over Japan's future and its military position in the Western Pacific. This latter view is held mainly by military officials, for whom the Under Secretary, Tracy Voorhees, has been the leader and advocate.

Mr. Voorhees has resigned his job effective this spring and that fact may, in the view of responsible diplomats, weaken the anti-peace treaty forces to such an extent as to turn the balance decisively in favour of a pact.

Britain's stand

The British government took the stand months ago that a treaty should be completed at the earliest possible date.

Such a pact would embrace Japan on the one hand and all her wartime opponents on the other. Russia, however, insists that there be a big power veto over all the treaty terms. The trend of thinking here now is for the Western powers to proceed by themselves if Russia refuses to join in under acceptable conditions.

The subject seems certain to arise when Mr. Acheson meets the British Foreign Minister, Mr. Ernest Bevin, and the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, in London in May. Meanwhile, a shift in departmental assignments may contribute to speeding up of a decision. Mr. Acheson announced on Mon-

prepared to testify before the Arab League Council if required. Reliable sources said the meeting of the Political Committee today decided not to recognise any agreements between Jordan and Israel. The sources said the committee decided that any such agreement would be tantamount to co-operation with an enemy.—United Press.

day the assignment of Mr. W. Walton Butterworth, formerly Assistant Secretary for the Far East, to specialise on Japanese affairs, while the Deputy Under Secretary, Dean Rusk, takes over the general direction of Far Eastern policy.

Mr. Butterworth and Dr. Jessup, both of whom have completed fact-finding missions to the Far East and South East Asia, reportedly see the Japanese treaty as one line of action which the United States could take to strengthen its position in that quarter of the globe.

Advantageous

America's policy for fighting the spread of Communism in Asia is based on the principle of increasing freedom for the Asian people. Peace treaty advocates declare that in the long run, the United States would thus find it advantageous to restore freedom and independence to the Japanese.

Opponents of the treaty argue, however, that this country would lose security by erasing the occupation and the special status which American troops and policies enjoy in Japan as a result of the occupation. Persons of this view say the Japanese can be given increasing self-government under General MacArthur's broad supervision.

State Department officials came forward several months ago with a plan for keeping troops in Japan, even after the occupation ends. This would be accomplished by making a special military treaty for bases.

There appears to be general agreement between the State and Defence Departments that American forces will have to be kept in Japan for a good many years, regardless of a peace treaty.—Associated Press.

Flying boat explodes, killing 10

Bordeaux, March 28.

A Latécoere flying boat exploded in the air, crashed into the sea and disappeared with 10 men on board during a trial flight near here this afternoon. The aircraft exploded shortly after taking off.

Vessels seeking survivors found only oil.

The aircraft was a Latécoere-631 six-engined flying boat, weighing 73 tons loaded.

The first 631 was confiscated by the Germans and later sunk by bombs on Lake Constance.

A second 631 crashed into the sea on February 22, 1948, with a loss of 19 lives.

A third disappeared 380 miles West of Cape Verde on August 1, 1948, with 52 people on board.

Only the crew and technicians were aboard when today's accident took place.—Reuter.

FIVE MALAY GUERRILLAS KILLED

Singapore, March 28.

Five Communist guerrillas were killed today in the Segamat area of Johore, Southern Malaya, when troops contacted a band of 100. Two soldiers were injured.—Reuter.

Royal Kiss



Prince Bernhard is greeted with a kiss by his wife, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, as he arrives at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport after a three-month tour of the Western Hemisphere. He flew from New York in a KLM Constellation. Watching at right is one of their four daughters, Princess Margriet.—AP Photo.

Churchill calls for a united Europe

(Continued From Page 7)

Mr. Churchill paused reflectively, before adding: "Man in this moment of his history has emerged into greater supremacy over the forces of nature than has ever been dreamed of before. He has it in his power to solve quite easily the problems of material existence."

"There only remains for him to conquer his last and worst enemy—himself."

Mr. Churchill expressed his earnest hope to hear from the Foreign Secretary any clear exposition of the facts and policy of the Government on matters graver than anything which human history records.

Mr. Churchill regretted that the Foreign Secretary had not agreed to open the debate, as the Conservatives desired. The Conservative leader hoped that Mr. Bevin would clear away misgivings on the Continent and in the United States that the British Government was lacking in zeal for the whole plan of the Council of Europe.

It was said, he added, that in the Committee of Ministers the Foreign Secretary was always among those who wished to advance less far or less fast.

"That is what is widely believed," declared Mr. Churchill, "and it tends to weaken our general influence in Europe."

Mr. Churchill's speech was heard mainly with quiet attention, but all his references to a United Europe incorporating Germany received loud murmurs of support from his own side of the House.

The Government bench remained silent. All the public galleries were filled with visitors for the occasion.—Reuter.

Spender urges signing of Jap peace treaty

Manila, March 28.

Mr. Percy Spender, Australian Minister for External Affairs, urged today that the Japanese peace treaty be signed this year.

Mr. Spender, climaxing a four-day goodwill visit to the Philippines, said at a press conference that he was "more concerned about a treaty conference being held right away than where it will be held."

Asked what he thought about the new Japanese constitution which outlaws war, Mr. Spender said "any constitution that outlaws war is a good thing."

He added: "Australia does not believe that it is impossible for two ideological systems to live together but the big question is now to keep the peace. Military preparation is important until it becomes clear that the other nations are not going to engage in aggression."—United Press.

Mao receives Soviet envoy

San Francisco, March 28.

Mr. Mao Tse-tung received Mr. N. V. Roschin, Ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Chinese People's Republic of China, together with Mr. L. V. Arhipov, Counselor of economic affairs at the Soviet Embassy, at 11 p.m. yesterday, Peking radio reported today.

Mr. Chou En-lai, Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, was also present.

Mr. Roschin has just returned from Moscow.—United Press.

INDIA AND C'WEALTH RELATIONS

London, March 28.

The relationship of the Indian Republic within the Commonwealth was going to be one of the greatest benefits to mankind at large from the point of view of stability and economic prosperity, Lord Listowel declared here today.

The former Minister for Colonial Affairs was presiding at a meeting of the East India Association at which the speaker was Mrs. G. Parthasarathi, former Principal of Ethiraj College for Women in Madras.

Lord Listowel said that the political and administrative progress India had made in the last few years was really astonishing. He was specially impressed by the unification of all the 500 odd princely states.

The Indian Government had accomplished in three years what the British Government had been trying to do in a generation. It had been accomplished, moreover, with consent and the agreement of the princes—not in the brutal fashion which European States adopted when they united their countries in the Nineteenth Century.

Lord Listowel said that the new Indian Constitution was one of the most progressive documents that any country had ever accepted.

Mrs. Parthasarathi said that, to an infant democracy like India, the fact that fundamental rights were a part of the Constitution was of great value. It made the individual citizen conscious of his rights and put them squarely before him.

The citizen had been given something to fight for, something he would cherish and wish to hand down from generation to generation. It was a reminder to the Government that the State was not an end in itself, but a means to enrich the individual personality.

In the generous, realistic and honourable decision to remain within the Commonwealth, the new democracy was only carrying out the teaching of Mahatma Gandhi, in whose precepts there was no place for rancour, bitterness and hatred once Britain had given up her right to rule the country.

Pandit Nehru, the chief architect of the new India, had shown the same spirit in his approach to the other nations of the world.—Reuter.

NEW POST FOR SIR RALPH

London, March 28.

Sir Ralph Stevenson, former British Ambassador to China, will succeed Sir Ronald Campbell as British Ambassador in Cairo some time this summer, usually well-informed sources in London said today.

Sir Ronald reaches the normal retiring age of 60 next June.—Reuter.

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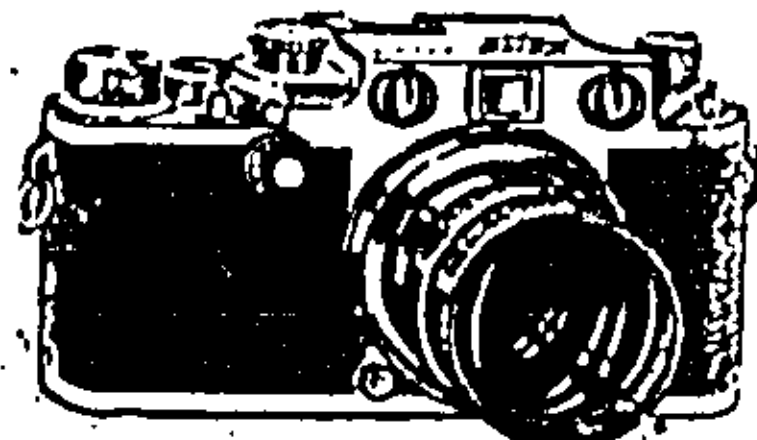
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Empire Orwell, Army's most modern troopship, leaves Colony today

The troopship Empire Orwell—the most up-to-date example of the way in which British servicemen and dependants can be carried in peacetime with comfort on long sea voyages—will leave today.

The 18,036-ton former German passenger liner, built at Hamburg and named Pretoria, is taking back to the United Kingdom personnel on furlough or re-assignment and repatriates.

The Empire Orwell, which arrived here over the weekend with replacements for the Colony's garrison, was one of the ships assigned to the United Kingdom by the Tripartite Commission at the end of the war in Europe.

She was refitted at Newcastle for service as a troopship. But her Benson boilers, which were experiment by the German builders, could not be satisfactorily maintained in service. The liner was consequently laid up while technical investigations were made to overcome this difficulty.

The decision to install new boilers and to adapt the main machinery and fit new materials was met with several difficulties. It would have meant undertaking a major reconstruction job at a time when the shipyards in Britain were fully occupied with the tremendous task of converting the huge fleet of passenger liners and other vessels which had been requisitioned for Government service during the war.

There was also considerable difficulty in finding a suitable shipyard to handle the troopship. The possibility of towing the vessel to a foreign yard was also ruled out. Eventually, she was taken to Southampton.

During her prolonged roosting undergoing refitting, the Empire Orwell was given special attention to bring her as nearly as possible into line with the new post-war standards for troopships.

The Empire Orwell accordingly represents the most up-to-date example of the way in which it is proposed to carry British servicemen and families on long sea voyages in peacetime.

New features

Besides provisions for maximum comfort and convenience for all ranks and dependants—now given free passage to overseas stations in much greater numbers than in the past—many new features and improvements have been incorporated. Special attention had been given to space for

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BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Women's Services, who are now liable for duty abroad. Accommodation figures which the troopship is capable of carrying are: 171 first-class, 34 second-class cabin passengers, 90 boys in a separate dormitory, 1,000 other ranks, totaling 1,491 persons. The figures include the ship's permanent military staff.

Troops, Head Steward H. W. Fowler of the Empire Orwell took members of the local Press on a deck-to-deck tour yesterday.

The most impressive feature is the first-class lounge, which also serves as the dance floor. A bandstand at the corner of the spacious lounge, rubberized settees flanking the hall and an imposing pedestal in the middle of the lounge such as normally seen only in modern shore establishments.

The dining saloon extends the breadth of the ship's deck which accommodates the first-class passengers—officers and families. Ninety-six persons can fill the saloon.

The first-class cabin has cold and hot fresh water, wardrobes, chests of drawers and comfortable bunks.

Dining saloons

The other classes have more or less similar features in layout. They become less elaborate as they go down the list. Each other class, however, has its own dining saloon. But one large saloon caters for both second and third classes and is divided into two sections by a folding partition.

Children are provided with nurseries for each class. They are equipped with small chairs, tables, toys, low seats and blackboards for kindergarten. The first-class nursery has a sliding chute, rocking chair, see-saw and a model house.

All sanitary and washing appliances are now of modern porcelain manufacture. Each wash basin is provided with hot and cold water.

The hospital ward for men, the female ward and the mental ward are on D Deck. The "D" ward is on the sun deck. The isolation ward on B Deck. Separate medical inspection rooms are provided for cabin passengers and troops.

A fully equipped laundry is available to all classes. This is a new amenity in troopships. Ironing rooms are another modern facility on a troopship.

Entertainment by movies is now a permanent feature on a troopship. The Empire Orwell has "cinema halls" in the troop mess hall in the various lounges and in the weather on B Deck.

Separate libraries are provided for cabin and troopship passengers.

At the helm

At the helm of the Empire Orwell is Captain A. C. G. Hawker, CBE, RNR, RD, who was master of the Otranto when she picked up survivors of the Tuscan Star, which had been sunk in the Atlantic in 1942. The Otranto was the target of several air attacks but escaped unscathed. Captain Hawker, who was born in 1889 and who served his apprenticeship with the Orient Line, was aboard the Otranto at the Sicily invasion and Salerno landings.

The Staff Commander is Commander R. B. Stannard, VC, DSO, RD, RNR, of Lough Lene, who has been with the Orient Line for 21 years. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for "outstanding valour and signal devotion to duty" while serving in the armed trawler Arco during the Norwegian campaign.

Part of the citation reads "for outstanding valour and signal devotion to duty at Namoros; When enemy bombing attacks had set fire many tons of hand grenades on Namoros wharf with no shore water supply available, Lieutenant Commander Stannard ran the Arco's bows against the wharf and then endeavored for two hours to extinguish the fire with hoses from the fore-castle. He persisted in the work until the attempt had to be given up as hopeless."

After helping other ships against air attacks he placed his own damaged vessel under the shelter of a cliff, landed his crew and established an armed camp. Enemy aircraft which attacked by day were engaged and one which attempted to force him to steer East when leaving the fjord was brought down. He also received the Norwegian War Cross. Three years later he was awarded the DSO for successful action against enemy submarines in the Viny.

RADIO

Radio House broadcasts on a frequency of 845 kilocycles per second and on 9.15 megacycles per second in the 81 metre band, H.K.T.

P.M.

12.10—Broadcast for Schools—Civics—Religion and Everyday Life. (H.K.T.)

12.20—"Hong Kong Calling"—Programme Summary.

12.25—Night Variety.

1.00—Albert Bandier (Violin), with Cello and Piano.

1.15—News, Weather Report and Announcements.

1.25—Waterclock.

1.30—"From the Shows."

2.00—Close Down.

2.00—"Hong Kong Calling"—Programme Summary.

2.05—London Studio Melodies—The Melodrama Orchestra. (H.K.T.)

2.10—La Demi-Heure Française (Studio).

2.15—World News and News Analysis. (London Relay)

2.15—Sports Review by Bill Phillips. (Studio)

2.20—"Take It From Here"—With Joy Nichols, Dick Bentley and Jimmy Edwards. (H.K.T.)

2.30—"From the Editorials." (London Relay)

2.35—"Hong Kong Band Call"—Band of the M. Commandos—introduced by Captain David Jones. (Relay from the 9 Dragons Club, Kowloon)

2.40—"At the Opera"—Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" Act 3. With Principal Orchestra and Chorus of Royal Opera House Rome. Conducted by Olivero De Fabritis.

2.45—"Antarctic Venture"—The Story of the Falkland Island Dependencies. (Recorded Relay)

10.00—Radio News Hour. (London Relay)

10.15—Weather Report.

10.15—"In my Library"—A Talk by Rose Macaulay. (H.K.T.)

10.20—"The Play of Continuous Music"—Arranged by Betty Brown.

11.00—"Soft Lights and Sweet Music."

11.15—Weather Report, World News and Home News from Britain. (London Relay) Recorded.

God Save the King.

11.30—Close Down.



Princess Christina of Haga, aged 6, daughter of Princess Sibylla of Sweden, started at the well known Stockholm Ballet School of Mrs. Nina Kozlovsky, recently Mrs. Kozlovsky, famous in Latvia as "Dombrovsky," is very pleased with her Royal pupil and thinks she will make good progress. The little princess is the first member of the Swedish Royal family to study ballet. Photo shows her (front) at practice.—Associated Press Photo.

Rediffusion

A.M.
7.00—Up With The Sun.
7.15—Setting Up Exercises.
7.30—Musical Clock.
7.45—Ed. A. Keller Show.
8.00—News & Weather Forecast.
8.15—Romantic Bourdon Symphonette.
8.30—Morning Music.
8.55—Concise & Y. Board.
10.00—Music For All.
11.00—The Four Knights.
11.15—Waltz Time.
11.30—Parade of Rhythms.
P.M.
12.30—H.K. Stock Exchange.
12.10—D.B.C. School Broadcast.
12.25—From The Films.
1.00—Light Variety.
1.15—News.
1.30—Orchestra Of The Week.
2.00—Variety Calls The Tune.
4.00—The Novelties Trio.
4.15—Tropicana.
4.30—Yucca Yucca.
4.50—Music Makers.
5.15—Children's Corner.
5.30—Movie Time.
5.50—Music by Paul Weston.
6.15—Men Behind The Melody.
6.30—Norman Clouston and his Memorable Music.
7.00—B.D.C. News.
7.15—Local News.
7.30—Smile Awfully.
7.45—Song Souvenirs.
7.55—Listen to Lethers.
8.00—Let's Waltz.
8.15—The Swartwood Serenaders.
8.30—Rediffusion Request Show.
9.00—B.D.C. News.
9.15—Local News.
9.30—Rediffusion Concert Hall.
10.00—Murder Berap Book.
10.15—Starlight Hour.
11.15—Ray Martin & his Melody.
11.30—Musical.
11.50—Close Down.

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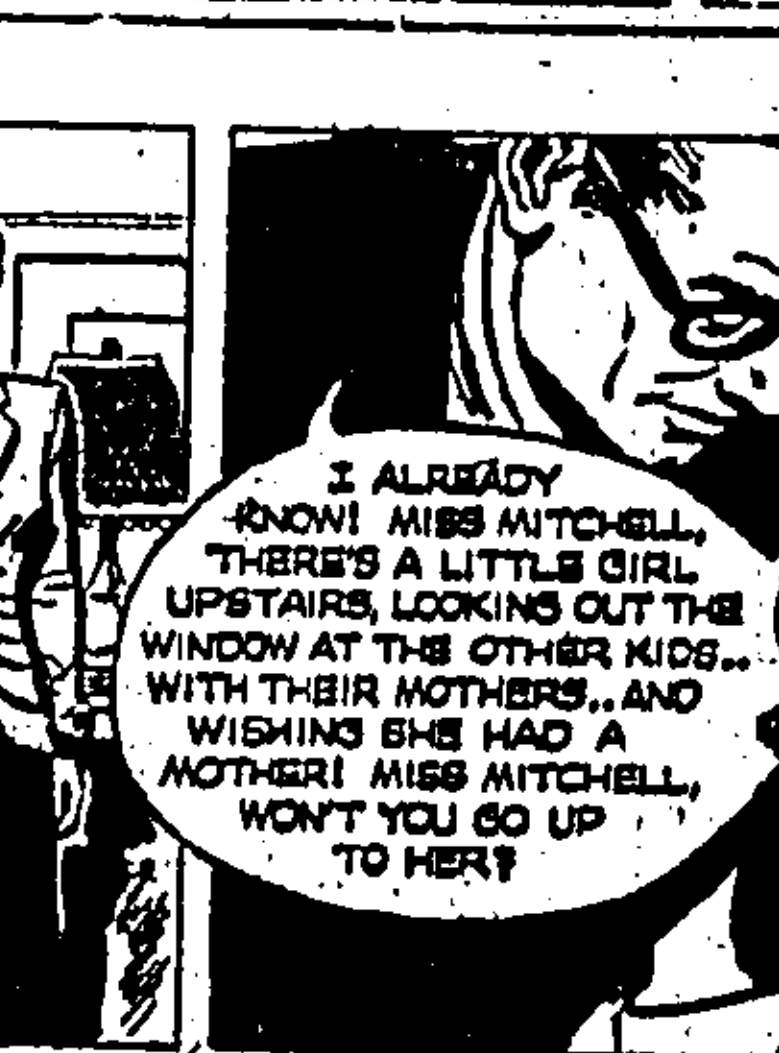
London, March 28.
Britain's nationalised air services will receive grants of £8,500,000 from the Government to meet expected deficits in the coming year, it was disclosed today.—Reuter.

POP



MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis





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"HANYANG"	Indochina & Tientsin	3 p.m. 2nd Apr.
"SOOCHOW"	Spore & Brunei	3 p.m. 2nd Apr.
"FOOCHOW"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	5 p.m. 3rd Apr.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 4th Apr.
"KWEIYANG"	Spore & Bangkok (not loading)	3 p.m. 8th Apr.
"SZECHUEN"	Bangkok	5 p.m. 9th Apr.
"YUNNAN"	Singapore	3 p.m. 15th Apr.
"ANHUI"	Singapore, Penang & Belawan	3 p.m. 10th Apr.

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"SHENGKING"	Keelung	p.m. 2nd Apr.
"SZECHUEN"	Kobe	6th Apr.
"TSINAN"	Korea & Moji	7th Apr.

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"ANTIOCHUS"	U.K. via Straits	1st Apr.
"TELEMACHUS"	U.K. via Jeddah & Straits	4th Apr.
"AUTOLYCUS"	U.K. via Straits	11th Apr.
"MENTOR"	U.K. via Straits	14th Apr.
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BUDGET DEBATE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 3)

"It only works out at 83 cents a day and it must be a pretty poor business which does not produce sufficient profit to cover such a small levy."

A little crude

"This form of taxation is a little crude, but it would in fact constitute a minimum profits tax. It would produce a fairly substantial revenue but it would not cover the Budget deficit, which has now risen to \$8,000,000 for owing to the impossibility of completing payments this year. In respect of the 'Kai Tak' compensation on the scale originally contemplated, which was partly due to persons who had agreed to take time in exchange suddenly deciding to take cash. Select Committee have had no alternative but to recommend the re-voicing of a further \$1,395,318 for these payments."

"There is also our contribution towards the cost of the reinforcement of the garrison to be considered, so the proposed business registration fee would require augmentation on quite a considerable scale, perhaps by a modification of Government's original proposal. This, however, will require further examination."

"Government still holds the view that we should aim at a revenue for the coming year of at least \$204 million, and it is proposed to increase the Revenue total to this figure in the final print of the Estimates."

"As I have explained, Government will give further consideration to the manner in which this additional \$12 million should be produced, and in doing so the views expressed by Unofficial Members in the course of the debate will receive full consideration."

"Some legislation will undoubtedly be necessary, and Honorable Members will have a further opportunity for debate when this is introduced."

MR. TODD

Mr. Todd said:

"The problem of an over-large prison population, with consequent overcrowding, continues to be with us. Preliminary examination shows that the problem to be overcome is mainly one of reducing the number of offences against public health, unlicensed hawkering, etc."

"A small inter-departmental committee, under the chairmanship of the Solicitor-General, is now sitting to investigate measures which might be taken to effect a reduction in the number of persons serving prison sentences, having regard both for the need for economy and for the desirability of ensuring that respect for law and order is fully maintained."

Prison labour camp

"If the committee is of the opinion that additional prison accommodation is required, it is empowered to consider whether a differentiation might be made in the type of accommodation, for instance, a prison labour camp, provided for persons imprisoned in default of payment of a fine or for other short-term prisoners."

"Sir Man-kam Lo made some remarks in his speech last Wednesday, about the relative cost to Government of pupils in Grant-in-Aid and in subsidised schools, coming to the conclusion that the cost of the former is five times the cost of the latter."

"On the figures quoted the mathematical result arrived at is correct, but it fails to take into account certain factors which the figures themselves do not show. In the first place, Grant-in-Aid covers the whole difference between approved expenditure and income from tuition fees whereas the Subsidy is not less than half the difference."

"Were all schools subsidised 100 per cent, the cost would be \$2,800,000 instead of \$2,300,000. In the second place, the Grant-Aided schools teach in English and employ expatriate staff for whom pay and leave benefits are higher, while the local staff also receive 50 per cent higher salaries than their fellow teachers in subsidised schools."

"Were these figures the cost would further increase to \$3,120,000. With increased cost of living allowances, the figure would rise to \$3,700,000. For 17,000 children at \$215 each, \$3,645,000. In Grant Schools for 15,780 children, or three times as much, a child. In the third place, in the Grant-Aided Schools 80 per cent of the pupils are receiving secondary education as against primary education in the subsidised schools."

"The fact that a pupil in the secondary Queen's College is two and a half times as 'costly' as a child in a Government Primary School. Compared in this way there is not quite the discrepancy which the Hon. Member would have us believe."

"The figures for schools in England are: Primary, £219,113, Secondary, £40,712, two and a half times as great. (Hartfordshire County Accountant 10.10.1947). Allowing for the differences in educational standards and the objects of the two schools, it would seem that our expenditure is very much in keeping with that of other places."

Expenditure

"As regards the proposal that a review of the whole question of Government expenditure on Education should be undertaken, preferably by experts from England, Government is sympathetic towards the idea, but it is not clear that the Director of Education and the Board of Education. This will be done."

"Dr. S. N. Chou, urged that greater efforts should be made to reduce the large number of children still seeking admission to schools. No one could be more in agreement with these remarks than I am, but in the first place there is a limit both to the rate of building and also to the number of children for whom we should provide places."

"It is probable that we now have places for all our real residents, but, obviously the more places we provide the more people will come into the Colony to take advantage of them."

"While it is admitted that there is a large number (probably 50,000 or more) of children in the Colony, there is no very great number of these who wish to go to school for whom there are no places."

"It is estimated that there are 200,000 children of 5-14 years of age but that at least 30,000 of these are working and would not come to school. In any case, there are nearly 150,000 children in school."

"Two sectional schools are educationally unsound and this is fully realised by Government. The Director of Education is putting a 10-year plan, which is designed to meet this situation and the shortage of places before the Board of Education at its next meeting."

"Dr. S. N. Chou suggested that Government give further consideration to the housing of local, as distinguished from expatriate, civil servants."

"It is perhaps not generally recognised that out of a total of some 21,500 Government servants (including approximately 1,000 expatriate officers, 9,500 temporary officers and 4,367 daily paid employees) we provide accommodation for about 4,500, or one-fifth of the total, and that of these 3,400 are local officers on monthly or daily pay."

Police stations

"The position so far as the Police are concerned continues to improve, with the completion of new stations and the erection of blocks of quarters. To provide quarters for the remaining 17,000 would be prohibitively expensive, nor is there any certainty that local Government servants would continue to want quarters provided at a time of high construction costs if the present over-crowding in the quarters were to be eased."

"The present demand may only be temporary and thereafter the taxpayer might be saddled with a large number of blocks of quarters for whom no occupants could be found. On previous occasions, admittedly many years ago in the nineteenth century, when Government had one or two blocks of quarters for Chinese clerical staff, they did not prove as popular as might be expected and the experiment was abandoned."

"The considerable expansion in the number of Government quarters for expatriate officers since the war was necessitated by the fact that this class of persons usually had no quarters to live without recourse to wholesale requisitioning. If Government had not acted there was a danger that the Administration would have broken down, as a result of wholesale resignations. But the local staff are in a different position. They all have somewhere to live, there is many cases of overcrowding, but it is inadequate or far too expensive."

"The building of the Hong Kong Model Housing Association is a first step in the direction of tackling the problem as a whole, and it is hoped that this will be followed by other similar schemes. Proposals are under consideration for devoting part of the balance of Hong Kong's allocation from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds to a housing scheme for the lower paid members of the community."

"The Director of Public Works is already at work on a 'Pilot scheme' which would consist of a small number of houses, and if the need for increased accommodation continues."

Retirement age

"Mr. M. M. Watson is perturbed by what he hears regarding the rule that Government officers may retire at the age of 45 and take their pension."

"In paragraph 163 of the Report of the Salaries Commission, 1947, the Commission favoured the idea that Government should have power to call upon any officer who had reached retirement age and that officers should have the right of voluntary retirement at any time after that age. But, again, the Commission qualified their approval by their inability to gauge what this change would cost the Colony or what the consequences would be if the public service would result if many officers made use of their right."

"For Radio and Television, the Government has decided to spend \$10 million on the new station."

"The recommendation was eventually implemented in the new Pensions Ordinance, No. 50 of 1949, but, as was explained in the Objects and Reasons to the Bill, and further emphasised by the Attorney General in introducing the Bill, this recommendation had intended to be regarded as experimental and it has been made clear to officers in the service that there may be a reversion to the previously existing age-limit if the experiment does not prove satisfactory by June, 1951."

"The effect of the experiment in this Colony 35 applications to retire before reaching the normal age of retirement have been received, 22 from expatriate and 13 from local officers. Retirement has been approved in 25 cases, but of these nine had reached the age of 50 and could have retired under the previous legislation which permitted retirement between 50 and 55. The net effect of the introduction of retirement at 45 is, therefore, that 10 officers have taken advantage of it so far and 10 cases are under consideration. I can assure that the situation will be closely watched, pending a review in the first half of next year."

Work on airport

"Preliminary work in connection with the new airport has started and a Survey Party is now investigating conditions on the site. This survey is likely to take six months."

"Meanwhile, a number of important engineering and technical problems are being studied and in this we are receiving much valuable assistance and advice from authorities in the United Kingdom. Future progress on this great project depends on the results of the survey which alone can determine whether the site is suitable."

"If it is suitable, as we think it is, a further period of about six months will be required to examine the first accurate estimates of the ultimate cost of the airport, and these estimates will require consideration by Government."

"While a very rough guess of \$24,000,000 has been made, I cannot attach any reliability to this figure, nor, I regret, is it possible at this stage to say when the new airport may be in operation, but it will not be before 1952."

"Mr. Watson has stated that the continuance of the Government monopoly in rice is contrary to the principles of English mercantile practice, and he advocates a return to free trade in this key commodity. But in maintaining the purchase and importation of rice on an inter-Governmental basis Hong Kong does not stand alone."

"The export trade in rice from Siam and Burma is still firmly in the hands of a few big firms of those countries and we are following a policy which is in line with that of every other rice-importing country in the Far East."

"It is true that since the end of 1949 the International Emergency Food Committee has no longer been allocating rice on a world basis. But the decision to end allocation by international agreement was taken during the summer of 1949 when the prospects in the Far East looked much brighter than they do today."

"The need to secure supplies of rice for this area is very grave, and the Government would be failing in its duty if in these circumstances it took the slightest risk where feeding the population of Hong Kong is concerned."

"There is no doubt that if merchants in Hong Kong were able, and were permitted, to import rice freely from Siam and Burma, the price of rice would fall significantly. But I look further ahead. In six months, with free trade in rice, there would have been over-purchasing and the supplying countries would have sold what they had—the cupboard would be bare. Both here and in Siam and Burma."

"It is essential that we should receive a guarantee, in the shape of a contract with the supplying country for our minimum requirements of rice. This, I am glad to say, has already been done. Our contract for the current year for Siam rice is already signed."

"From the aspect of security and good house-keeping, it is necessary that medium stocks of rice should be kept in Hong Kong, and it is not Government policy to allow the rice to be hoarded by private individuals. It is necessary to have a sufficient stock of rice to meet the needs of the population in the event of a shortage."

Efficient rationing

"Even if there were adequate rice supplies from the Far East, it would be necessary to have an efficient rationing system, and it is essential that the Government should have a sufficient stock of rice to meet the needs of the population in the event of a shortage."

"The prospect of Hong Kong obtaining a larger share this year than hitherto of the available rice has made possible Government's decision to extend the rationing system to include all persons with one year's residence in the Colony. This will bring the rationed population up to a total of 1,750,000. The extension will come into force on April 1."

"During the recent increase in rice prices public attention has been focussed almost entirely on the prices of Chinese rice and this fact that Government rice has not risen in price has been overlooked."

"Government has, in its recent negotiations with Siam, stressed the need for better quality rice than has been allocated to this Colony hitherto. An improvement in the rationed rice can therefore be expected."

"On the one hand the free market in local rice is becoming of less consequence in our economy, and may in fact disappear altogether, while on the other hand Government is doing everything possible to extend the rationing system to improve the quality of rationed rice. I must stress again that the maintenance of adequate day-to-day rice supplies and of rice reserves for this Colony is of the utmost importance—vital importance—and that such supplies and reserves can only be maintained by Government."

"The situation in 1950 is quite different from what it was in 1941, and we cannot—we dare not—leave such a vital matter in the hands of private enterprise."

No objection

"Provided we are satisfied that the measures which Government is taking for the procurement of rice will maintain adequate day-to-day supplies, at a reasonable price, and an adequate reserve, there would be no objection to the private importer entering the purchasing field in Siam with a view to the importation of certain grades of rice which are not the subject of agreement between this Government and the Siam Government."

"One thing is certain and that is that the quantities of rice which would be available would be limited. Government is giving this matter careful consideration and a further statement will be made in the near future."

"The maximum amount of rice which could be produced in the New Territories is such a minute fraction of the Colony's requirements in the country that the Government would prefer to encourage the production of more vegetables rather than rice. This is in line with the Government's Wholesale Marketing Scheme—a scheme which has been much criticised but, one which the Government considers should be continued and one which will be improved—and by the supply of fertilisers to the farmers."

"Mr. C. E. Terry invited Government's attention to the publicity recently given to alleged exorbitant rent demands which are being made on farmers in the New Territories, and pointed out the harmful effect such demands would have on the efforts to make the Colony self-sufficient in vegetables and to reduce the cost to the consumer."

"The District Commissioner stated that, in his view and that of his District Officers, the reports of farmers being exploited by their landlords, are greatly exaggerated. In fact, no complaints had reached his office regarding rent increases."

"Rents in the New Territories are paid in kind rather than in cash, so that, generally speaking, where it is alleged that rents have been raised, the enhanced prices of rice or vegetables are the cause and not the effect of the so-called increase in rent."

"Lastly, I come to the question of the high cost of living. Government agrees that the policy of meeting increases in the cost of living by increased monetary allowances can only result in an inflationary spiral."

"As the Colony becomes more and more self-sufficient in vegetables and as the Vegetable Wholesale Marketing Scheme is improved, it is hoped to reduce the price of vegetables."

"Government, aware of the grave consequences of the high price of local fish, which is believed to be due to the lack of a ring of buyers who secure control of the fish that is sold by auction at the Wholesale Fish Market."

"A committee is being appointed to devise ways and means of countering the activities of this ring and bringing down the price of fish."

"Mr. Cassidy said the other day, in another place, that many merchants and price control a thorn in the flesh and that they would like to see the Government. I think I can truthfully report that the suffering public find the prices charged by the merchants in the fish market, rather than in the pocket, and that they would like to see the Government control the price of fish."

"The Price Control Commission has been instructed to make fuller use of its powers with a view to stopping this tendency to exploit the consumer."

"THE GOVERNOR
(Continued on page 12)

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